

PB Washington Update - September 9, 2011 - Interim Report

This Update focuses primarily on President Obama's address to the Joint Session of Congress last night.

The President's plan to jump start the economy, the American Jobs Act, calls for a total of \$447B in new federal funding to create jobs, including \$50B in additional funding for transportation programs:

\$27B for Highways

\$9B for Transit

\$6B for Rail, including \$2B for Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service and \$4B for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail

\$5B total for the TIGER discretionary grant program and the TIFIA financing program

\$2B for FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

\$1B for FAA's NextGen air traffic control system modernization

In addition, the President is requesting \$10B for a National Infrastructure Bank to be based in large part on Senators Kerry (D-MA) and Hutchison's (R-TX) pending Infrastructure Bank bill, S. 652. The bank would issue loans and loan guarantees to finance large transportation, water and energy infrastructure projects.

Keep in mind that the funding levels in the President's plan assume that the congressional Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction, the so-called "Supercommittee", can agree on the revenues, reforms or program cuts necessary to fund the \$447B American Jobs Act on top of the \$1.5 trillion in funding cuts they are required by law to produce by November 23 in order to reduce the federal deficit. In addition, the full Congress must pass the American Jobs Act which will likely be a tough sell since it calls for new federal spending.

Here are links to a number of documents related to the President's appearance before Congress:

White House Fact Sheet on details of the American Jobs Act – Short Version – attached – see pages 3 and 4 for the transportation provisions.

White House Fact Sheet on details of the American Jobs Act – Long Version – attached – see pages 7 and 8 for the transportation provisions.

Text of the President's address to Congress:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/08/address-president-joint-session-congress>

US DOT Secretary LaHood Statement on President's Remarks:

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2011/dot11711.html>

House T&I Committee Chairman John Mica's Statement in which he criticizes the plan for a National Infrastructure Bank. Mica prefers to empower new and existing state banks:

<http://transportation.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1390>

FAA Reauthorization

House leaders are poised to introduce a short-term FAA extension bill that would extend authorization for FAA programs through December 31, 2011. It would include a funding cut in line with the funding levels in the FY'12 House Budget Resolution and a provision for back pay for furloughed FAA workers. It will likely come to the House floor early next week.