

TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY
UPDATE - SENATE PASSES TRANSPORTATION-HOUSING
APPROPRIATIONS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 - 4:15 P.M.

The U.S. Senate has passed an amended version of the bill H.R. 3288, making annual appropriations for the Transportation Department and the Housing and Urban Development Department for fiscal year 2010, by a roll call vote of 73 to 25. The next step will be for the House of Representatives to agree to a conference with the Senate and appoint conferees, which could happen as early as next week, and then to get the bill through a House-Senate conference committee and to the White House by the last week of September or the first week of October.

No amendments adopted during consideration of H.R. 3288 in the Senate changed any dollar amounts in the bill as reported from committee.

Amendments to H.R. 3288 disposed of today (technically, all amendments were offered to the Senate Appropriations Committee substitute version of the bill) were:

**Landrieu amendment #2365 relating to usage of community development grants - agreed to by unanimous consent.

**Vitter amendment #2359 as modified relating to New Orleans public housing - amendment defeated by a vote of 34 to 62.

**DeMint amendment #2410 cutting off the Cambria County, PA airport from Essential Air Service subsidies - amendment defeated by a vote of 43 to 53.

**McCain amendment #2403 as modified to prevent HUD from carrying out the Brownfields Development Initiative - amendment defeated by a vote of 37 to 60.

**Kyl motion to recommit the bill with instructions to report back forthwith with amendments rescinding all unobligated DOT and HUD stimulus money except that for highways - motion defeated by a vote of 34 to 64.

Yesterday's unanimous consent agreement allowed for a manager's amendment to the bill to be in order today, but none was offered.

Amendments to H.R. 3288 that were disposed of earlier are:

**Coburn amendment #2374 to require HUD to make public reports on the number of homes it owns and their value - agreed to by unanimous consent.

**Coburn amendment #2377 to make all reports required by the bill available to the public unless security or other sensitive issues are involved - agreed to by unanimous consent.

**Coburn amendment #2371 to suspend for one year the requirement in 23 U.S.C. 133(d)(2) that states spend at least ten percent of their STP apportionments on transportation enhancements - amendment defeated by a vote of 39 yeas, 59 nays.

**Coburn amendment #2372 to prevent any funds provided by the bill from being used for a museum - amendment defeated by a vote of 41 yeas, 57 nays.

**Wicker amendment #2366, as modified, to require Amtrak to allow the transportation of firearms and ammunition in checked baggage under the same rules used by airlines - agreed to by a vote of 62 yeas, 30 nays.

**Vitter amendment #2376 to restate current law requiring a minimum amount of community service for able-bodied residents of public housing - agreed to by a vote of 73 yeas, 25 nays.

**Gregg amendment #2361 to prohibit the use of funding for signs saying that a project was paid for by the stimulus act - amendment defeated by a vote of 45 yeas, 52 nays.

**Ensign motion to recommit the bill to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report the bill back with the total budget authority reduced by \$12.713 billion, thereby reducing the total budget authority in the bill to the FY 2009 enacted level (excluding stimulus funds) - motion defeated by a vote of 33 yeas, 64 nays.

**Warner amendment #2402, as modified, to allow funds appropriated for Transportation Planning, Research and Development to be used for data collection for national performance measures - agreed to by unanimous consent.

**Murray amendment #2405, as modified, to allow up to \$200 million of the \$4 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance in Public Law 111-8 to be

used to prevent evictions.

**Durbin amendment #2415 to allow a railroad feasibility study in Springfield, IL.

**McCain amendment #2375 to transfer all earmarked funds in the bill to the FAA for use for Next Generation air traffic control - amendment defeated when a motion to lay the amendment on the table was agreed to by a vote of 68 to 26.

**Johanns amendment #2355 as modified to prevent any funds in the bill from going to the group ACORN or its subsidiaries - agreed to by a vote of 83 to 7.