

TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY  
UPDATE - MOVE TO CANCEL \$8.7 BILLION HIGHWAY RESCISSION  
DEFEATED  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 - 11:10 A.M.

An amendment to repeal the \$8.708 billion rescission of highway contract authority scheduled to take place on September 30, 2009 was defeated this morning by a House-Senate conference committee.

Democratic leaders have decided to use the conference report on the Legislative Branch appropriations bill (H.R. 2918) as a vehicle to carry the stopgap continuing resolution funding all federal agencies for the opening month of fiscal year 2010 starting October 1. This is being done so that no amendments to the "CR" can be offered on the House or Senate floors, as conference reports are unamendable.

During debate in the conference committee, Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH) offered an amendment to the CR that would have repealed section 10212 of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law (the section containing the \$8.7 billion 9-30-09 rescission).

But the LaTourette amendment, like all other amendments offered by Republicans during the conference meeting, was defeated by a party-line vote of the House conferees. Reps. Lewis (R-CA), Aderholt (R-AL), LaTourette (R-OH) and Cole (R-OK) voted to repeal the \$8.7 billion rescission; Reps. Obey (D-WI), Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Honda (D-CA), McCollum (D-MN), Ryan (D-OH), Ruppertsberger (D-MD), and Rodriguez (D-TX) voted to leave the rescission in place.

The CR also contains a one-month extension of federal surface transportation contract authority programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund. In the event that separate authorization legislation (such as H.R. 3617, which passed the House yesterday but which faces a potential Senate filibuster) does not become law by midnight on September 30, the provisions in the CR will govern surface transportation programs (assuming, of course, that the CR gets enacted in time).

The Legislative Branch conference report containing the CR will go to the House Rules Committee later today and will be voted on by the House tomorrow.