

## House DOT Appropriations Bill for FY 2021 Supports NAPA's Advocacy Priorities

On July 14, 2020, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2021 Transportation-Housing appropriations bill (THUD), which funds the promises made by the INVEST in America Act which was part of the \$1.5 trillion Democratic infrastructure bill passed by the House of Representatives on July 1, 2020. The House bill meets the obligation limitations for FY 2021 for Highway Trust Fund contract authority contained in the INVEST in America Act. The final DOT appropriations bill for 2021 will need to be reconciled with any Highway Trust Fund authorization or extension put in place by the Congress by September 30, 2020. A summary of the THUD bill is [here](#). The text of the bill is [here](#). The bill report is [here](#).

### Proposed Highway and Airport Funding Comparisons

	FY20 Enacted	FY21 House INVEST	FY21 House THUD	FY 21 Senate ATIA*	FY21 Senate THUD**
Federal-aid Highways - Highway Trust Fund	\$46.4b	\$46.4b	\$61.1b	\$54.4b	—
Federal-aid Highways - General Fund	\$2.2b	\$14.7b	\$1b	—	—
BUILD Grants	\$1b	—	\$1b	—	—
Airport Improvement Program – Aviation Trust Fund	\$3.35b	—	\$3.35b	—	—
Airport Improvement Program - General Fund	\$400m	—	\$500m	—	—

\* S. 2302, American Transportation Infrastructure Act, reported out of Senate EPW committee.

\*\* Not released yet.

### Other Provisions in House DOT Appropriations Bill for FY 2021

#### Funding Directives

This bill allows the state transportation departments to use up to \$14.7b distributed to state's via formula for operations and administrative expenses or to match other Federal funds. The bill also eliminates the requirement that states match Federal funds in FY 2021.

### **Pavement Materials Neutrality**

The bill directs the Department of Transportation to support “materials neutral decisions that do not promote or provide preference for specific building materials.”

### **Climate Change**

The bill urges the Department of Transportation to integrate considerations of the impacts of climate change into all aspects of the Department’s planning and into competitive grant and formula programs.

### **Study on Recycled Plastic in Asphalt**

The bill provides \$800,000 for the Transportation Research Board (TRB) to conduct a study and issue a report within 2 years on the use of recycled plastic materials in transportation infrastructure. The study should (1) identify domestic and international examples of transportation infrastructure projects which have used recycled plastic materials, (2) assess the effectiveness and utility of recycled plastic materials, (3) assess the extent to which recycled plastic materials are consistent with recognized specifications and standards for transportation infrastructure, (4) review relevant impacts of recycled plastic materials compared to non-waste plastic materials, (5) assess the health, safety, and environmental impacts of recycled plastic materials on humans and animals, (6) assess the ability of recycled plastic materials to withstand natural disasters and extreme weather events, and (7) assess the potential economic benefits of recycled plastic materials.

### **Asphalt Airfield Pavement Airport Research**

The bill provides \$40.6 million for the FAA’s airport technology research program that includes \$3,000,000 for asphalt airfield pavement research in FY 2021. This is in addition to the \$3 million NAPA secured for the same program in the FY 2020 THUD bill.

### **Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP)**

The bill directs FHWA to work with stakeholders to enable optimal use of reclaimed asphalt and concrete materials as well as virgin aggregate resources.

#### *More Information*

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