



National Association of County Engineers

“The Voice of County Road Officials”
Minnesota Transportation Alliance
NACE & Federal Legislative Update

About NACE



- “The Voice of County Road Officials”
- Represent over 2000 County Engineers and Road Managers in the United States and Canada

Wayne Sandberg, P.E

- Washington County MN
- NACE North Central Vice President
 - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana & Wyoming

NACE Legislative Priorities

- Safety
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization
- Infrastructure Spending Bill
- More Opportunities for Direct Funding
- Permit and Approval Process Streamlining
- Increased Federal Funding for Locals





THE FAST ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Outlook for Passage

WHAT'S THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME AT THIS POINT?

- The Senate attempts to develop a bipartisan reauthorization bill that could receive 60 votes in the Senate
 - This is already in question because Republicans have no incentive to deliver a “win” to Democrats by passing a long-term reauthorization.
- Chairman DeFazio’s reauthorization within H.R. 2 becomes part of a reconciliation package, to the extent that is possible.
- Both parties agree that Earmarks are back!

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Safety

- Dedication of funding to Complete Streets Planning
- Creates Vulnerable Road User Assessments
- Expansion of the Safe Routes to School Program
 - Program now applies THROUGH 12th grade
 - To enable and encourage high school students to walk and bike to school

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Reconnecting Communities

- Emphasis and funding to reconnect communities that were disconnected by past infrastructure projects
- \$500 Million toward developing a pilot program

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Permit and Approval Process Streamlining

- Environmental review for major projects streamlined
 - Timelines and deadlines to complete Federal Environmental Documentation
 - Accountability when deadlines are missed
 - Limitations to document sizes
 - Expansion of Categorical Exclusions

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Bridge Investment Program

- Creates a new competitive grant program to assist local governments
 - Rehabilitation or replacement
 - Includes Culverts
 - Promotes Bundling
 - \$600 million in FY 2022
 - Rising to \$700 million in FY 2026
 - State and Tribal Governments included also

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program

- Creates a new rural surface transportation grant program
 - Competitive grant program
 - Goals
 - Increase Connectivity
 - Improve Safety and Reliability
 - Emphasis on moving People and Freight
 - Generating Economic Development

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Climate Change

- National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)
 - Emphasis on Climate Change and Increasing Resiliency
- Carbon Reduction Program (Formula)
 - Establishes a Carbon Reduction Program to reduce transportation emissions.
Eligible projects include:
 - Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities
 - Advanced transportation and congestion management technologies
 - Deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems
 - Installation of vehicle to infrastructure (V2I) communications equipment
 - Development of a carbon reduction strategy

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (STRA) of 2021

Future Mobility

- Establish a pilot program to demonstrate a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee
 - Program will solicit volunteers to be a part of the demonstration
 - Focus on Equity for volunteer cohort
- Micromobility Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Eligibility
 - Bike Share program would be eligible for CMAQ
- Connected and Automated Vehicle Support

Now What?

It is important to remember this is only the first step in what will be a long bipartisan and bicameral process. Here's what needs to happen:

1. Senate Passes Bill out of Committee - **DONE**
2. Full Senate Votes in Favor of Bill (60 votes) - **DONE**
3. House Pass Bill out of Committee – **DONE**
4. Full House Votes in favor of Bill (Majority vote needed)
5. Chambers go to Conference (A conference Committee is members from both chambers selected (by leadership) to work together to form one Bill from the House and Senate versions.)
6. Conferees (members of Conference Committee) must sign off on the one bill that will then go to both chambers for a vote.
7. Both Chambers must pass the Conference Committee Bill (Conference Report).
8. President Signs Legislation, thus becoming law.

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NACE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

