

## Sen. Boxer Plans a Four-month Extension of SAFETEA-LU

August 19, 2011

[Update: Boxer plans for the committee to act on both the extension and the two-year bill on 9/8, for possible full Senate action the following week.]

The Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) will take up a four-month extension of SAFETEA-LU on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Committee Chair Boxer relayed this to some stakeholders late Thursday, according to Jeff Davis of Transportation Weekly.

The extension will be “clean” – meaning no changes to policies or funding levels, and would last through the end of January. SAFETEA-LU expires at midnight September 30<sup>th</sup> and must be renewed for keep most highway/transit programs operating and to continue the collection of federal transportation taxes.

What will House Transportation Chair John Mica do? After twenty “clean” extensions of the Federal Aviation bill, Mica successfully inserted policy changes over the objections of his Senate counterparts. Having that victory in hand, it is easy to speculate that he might try to insert policy changes in a SAFETEA-LU extension.

Boxer also announced the EPW committee will act on the bipartisan two-year highway/transit legislative proposal on September 15. 8.

## News » Press Releases

### **Mica Statement on President Obama's Call for Clean Extension of Transportation Funding**

August 31, 2011

Washington, DC – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) released the following statement in response to the President's call for a clean extension of U.S. surface transportation legislation:

“In the interest of getting Americans back to work and moving vital transportation legislation, Republicans are committed to working with the President and Congressional Democrats. During their control, they neglected aviation legislation for more than four years and left major transportation legislation in the ditch for more than a year.

“Republicans have offered positive and financially responsible alternatives to get these measures moving. As Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, I will agree to one additional highway program extension, this being the eighth of the overdue transportation reauthorization.

“I am returning to Washington to also consult with our Republican leadership before granting the 22nd FAA extension.”

###

UPDATED: 8/28/2011 3:45:00 PM

## Mica Plans Extension Funding

Rep. John Mica (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will support a temporary extension of the nation's current transportation plan when Congress returns to session next month, an aide said.

"While there are no details at this point, as the committee continues work to complete a six-year surface transportation reauthorization, it will also support an extension of expiring authority as necessary," Mica spokesman Justin Harclerode told Transport Topics Publishing Group Wednesday.

The current transportation law expired in 2009, but Congress has approved several temporary extensions, which have to be agreed upon by the House and Senate and signed by President Obama.

The current extension expires Sept. 30. Without another extension, the federal government will not be able to collect the 18.4-cent gas tax nor the 24.4-cent diesel tax that support the nation's transportation system.

In addition, the government will not be authorized to spend money on transportation.

Time is critical because Congress will only be in session 11 days during September, said officials at a Tuesday press conference held in Louisville, Ky., organized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.