

## **Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (The FAST Act, P.L. 114-094)**

Summary highlights of the new federal transportation law, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.

On December 4, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the FAST Act, P.L. 114-094).

### **Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act**

A. The FAST Act is a five-year authorization of highway, transit, safety and rail programs. It includes approximately \$225 billion in contract authority over five years for the Federal-aid highway program, increasing funding from \$41 billion in federal fiscal year (FY) 2015 to \$47 billion in FY 2020, a 15 percent increase.

B. About half of the increase will support two new freight-related initiatives: a new National Highway Freight program (FAST Act section 1116), funded at approximately \$1.2 billion a year that is distributed to the states by formula (California would receive an annual average apportionment of \$117 million from FY 2016-2020); and a new discretionary program for Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (FAST Act section 1105), funded at approximately \$900 million a year. The remainder will provide small annual increases in core highway program funding.

### **C. Freight Provisions**

- 1) The FAST Act creates a National Multimodal Freight Network (FAST Act section 8001), specifically includes freight railroads, public ports based on tonnage, international border crossings, inland and intracoastal waterways, and the top fifty U.S. airports based on annual landed weight.
- 2) The FAST Act's National Multimodal Freight Policy (FAST Act section 8001) includes improving the movement of goods travelling across rural areas between population centers and between rural areas and population centers as national goals.
- 3) The FAST Act's National Multimodal Freight Network includes the National Highway Freight Network (FAST Act section 1116), which is comprised of the Interstate System, an expanded 41,000 mile Primary Highway Freight System, and state and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) identified Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors.
- 4) The FAST Act authorizes a total of \$2.2 billion from the General Fund over five years for rail funding. FAST Act sections 11102 and 11301 (Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements) authorizes \$1.1 billion for grants to assist in financing the costs of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems in terms of safety, efficiency or reliability (e.g., positive train control (PTC) systems and certain workforce development and training activities).

For more information on the FAST Act, please visit:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/map21/map21\\_implementation.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/map21/map21_implementation.htm)