



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

7/22/2015 – Patch Likely for “Pothole” in Highway Trust Fund

As the July 31 deadline looms ever nearer, the likelihood of a short to mid-term patch to fill the revenue gap in the Highway Trust Fund seems probable. Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have been working on measures to address the transportation authorization matter, but most agree that with only a week to go before funding dries up and the Department of Transportation is forced to slow current payments and possibly delay new construction starts, the solution may be along the lines of the House \$8.1 billion stopgap proposal that would fund activities through December 18, by tapping into the general treasury.

It is hoped that during the five month window, the Senate and House can settle-on a full six-year authorization bill that can be reconciled for passage. However, the financing challenges have not been resolved in either chamber and remain the number one stumbling block to any bill. Debate continues on how or where additional revenue can be raised; and/or whether more income at the federal level is even the solution – given critics’ contentions that the states can do more, and the money being spent needs to be better managed and prioritized so critical infrastructure concerns can be addressed. This matter will play out over the next week and into the fall.