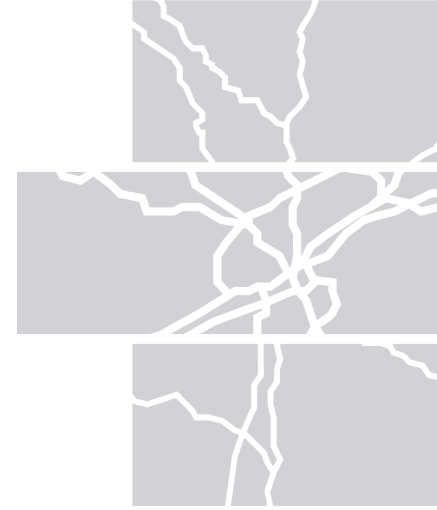


# Item 7

## Federal Surface Transportation Funding Reauthorization Update

**PRESENTER: ELLEN ZAVISCA, AMPO STAFF**

**NO ACTION REQUIRED**





Association of  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organizations

# Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill

**Knoxville Regional TPO**

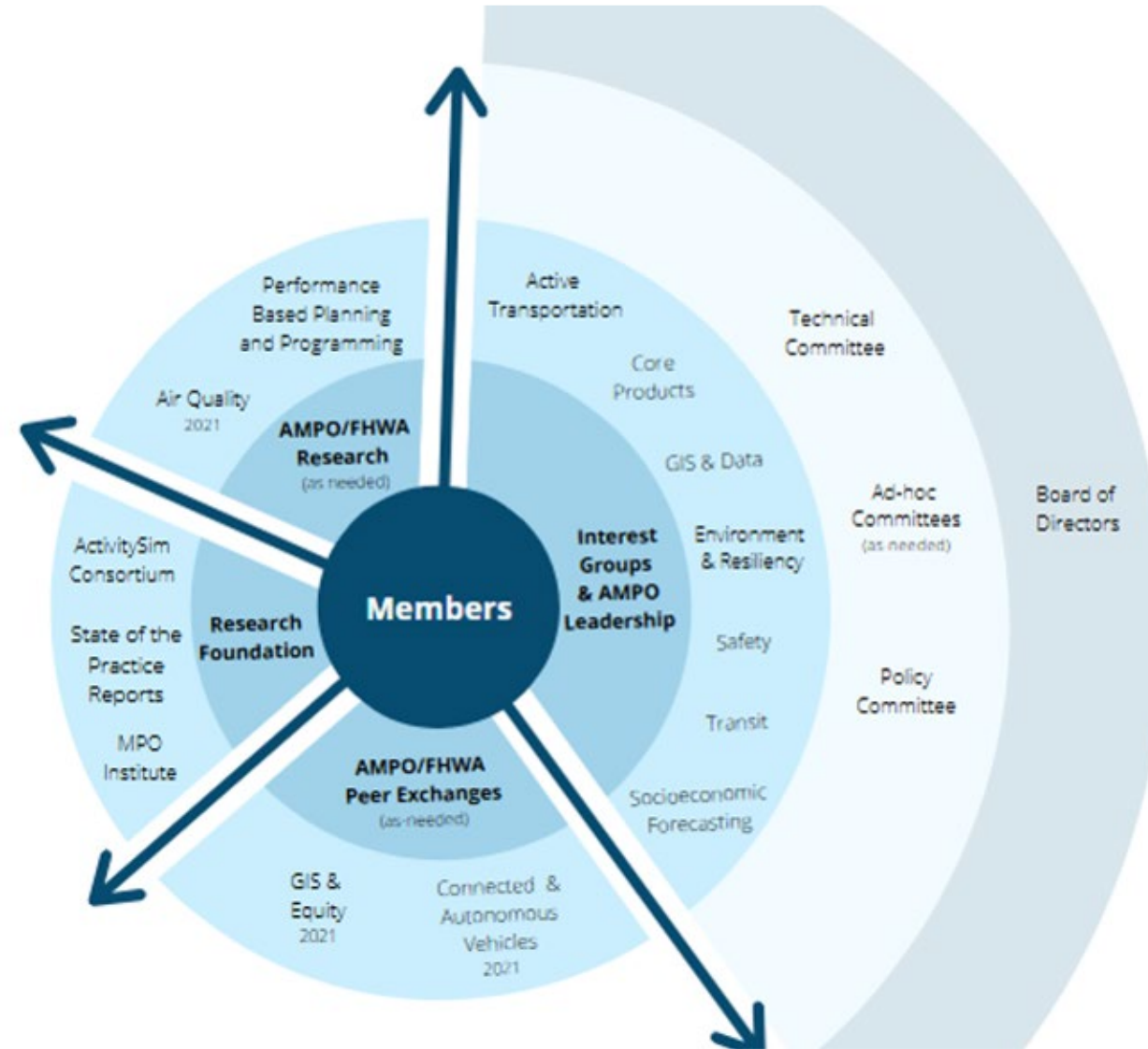
12/9/2025

# AMPO

## Member led, member driven

AMPO is the national resource for MPOs, providing peer-to-peer opportunities, advocacy, and research. AMPO is led by a Board of Directors, elected from membership and made up of MPO Executive Directors.

Over **100 MPO staff** volunteer in a leadership role within AMPO annually, ensuring all of our programs and services are guided by practitioners doing on-the-ground work.





# Reauthorization101

The process Congress uses to renew, fund, and update the programs that build and maintain the nation's roads, bridges, transit, and multimodal networks.

# Transportation Reauthorization 101



Process by which transportation funding and policy are authorized



Occurs Every 5-6 years (current bill – IIJA – expires end of FY 26)



Federal Transportation funding is guaranteed through reauthorization (funding comes from the HTF)



Committees:

House: T&I – Policy; Ways & Means – Funding; Science – Research\*\*  
Senate: EPW – Highway; Banking – Transit; Commerce – General\*/Research\*/Safety

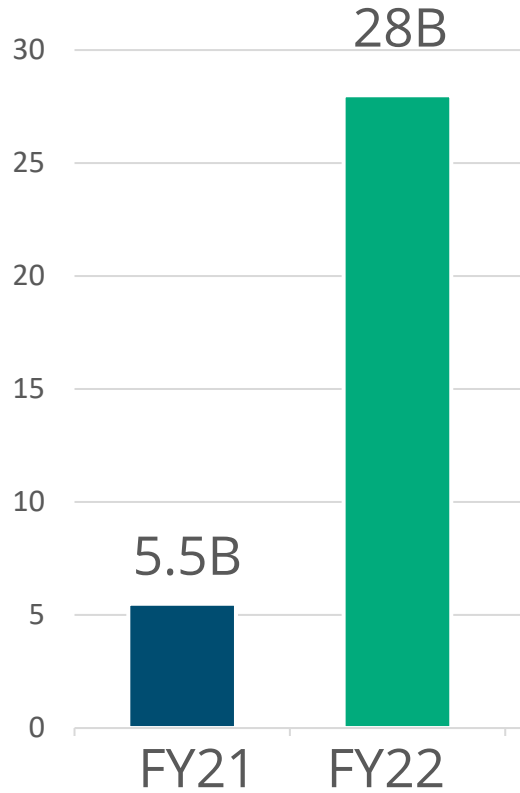
View the  
Reauthorization  
101 Guide



# IIJA Discretionary Funding

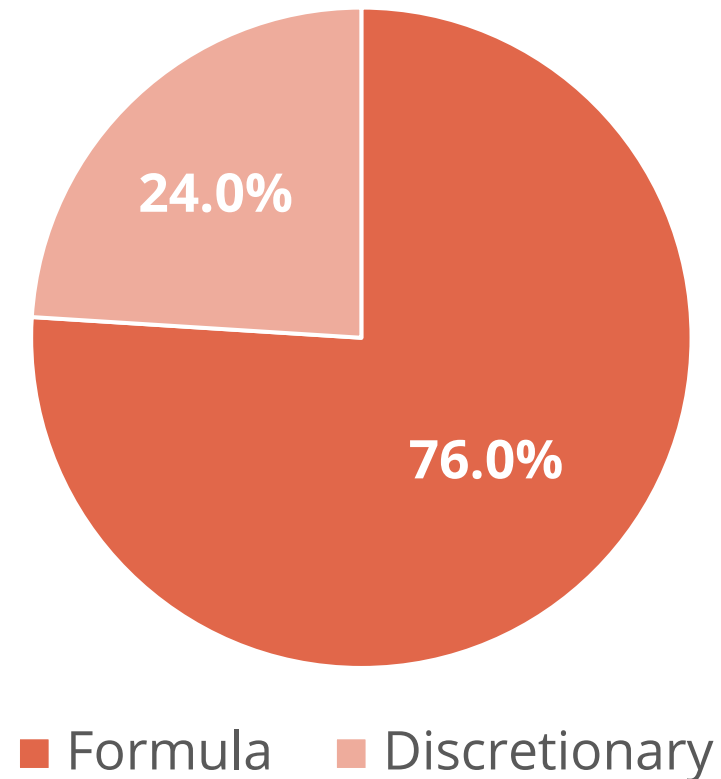
## Discretionary Funding

FAST ACT >> IIJA/BIL



## Total Funding Split

FY22 – FY26



# Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Expires September 30, 2026

# Reauthorization Timeline - House

**2025 Fall:** Finalizing Base Text & Sharing Between Minority/Majority Committee Staff



**2026 Winter:** Bills released & markups

**2026 Winter/Early Spring:** Potential floor time  
*Chairman Graves: goal of house passage by Spring 2026*

**2026 September 30th:** IIJA expires

**2026 November:** Midterm Elections

*Note: House expected to move ahead of Senate timeline.*

# USDOT Reauthorization

Recurring themes by USDOT include:



**Enhancing  
Safety**



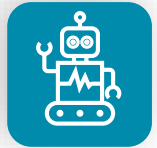
**Speeding up  
Project Delivery**



**Economic  
Opportunity**



**Strengthening  
Partnerships**



**Innovation**



**Supporting Families  
& Communities**

## In the News

Administration Proposals on Cuts to Transit Funding ([read here](#))

- **Eliminate the Mass Transit Account** within the Highway Trust Fund and divert its dedicated revenue to highway uses
- Prohibit states from **using FHWA highway formula dollars for transit projects or transferring those funds** to FTA.



# AMPO Legislative Priorities

## Planning: The Blueprint for Success

- Increase Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding
- Allow MPOs to receive PL Funds directly, with an opt-out option
- Eliminate the local match requirement for PL funds
- Modernize eligible uses

## Empower Regional Decision-Making

- Clarify & strengthen project selection roles
- Enhance coordination & transparency
- Pilot program for streamlined regional delivery

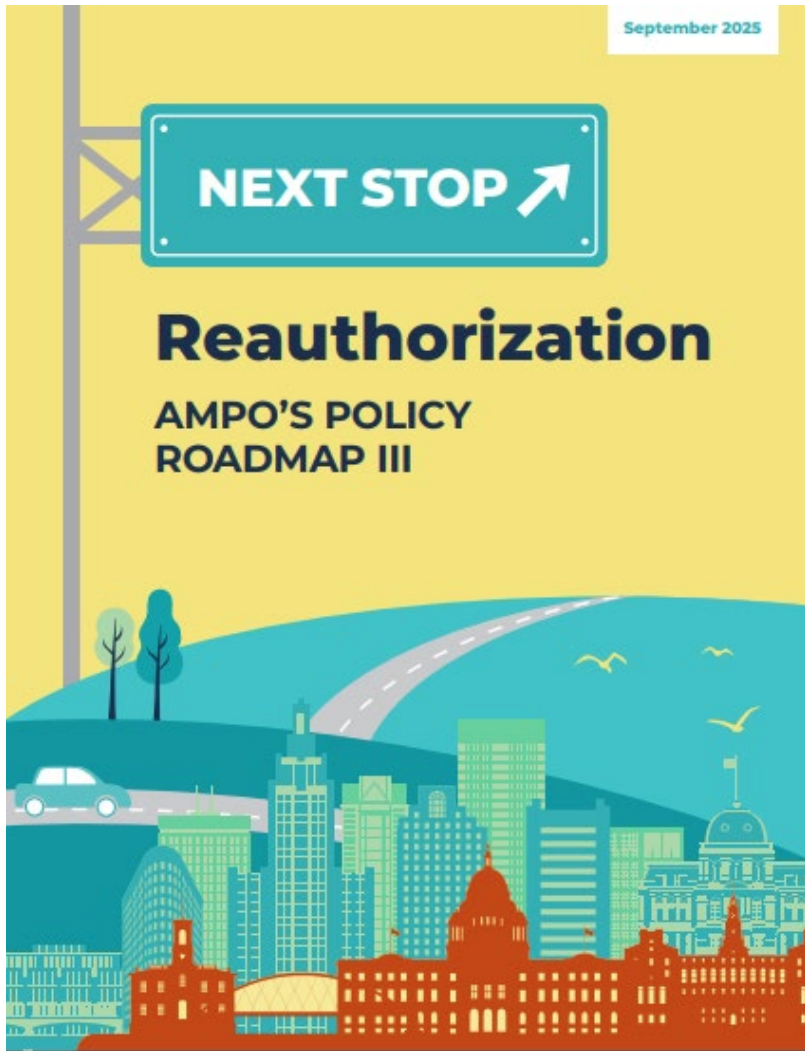
## Right-size, Align, and Streamline

- Reduce local match requirements for suballocated capital programs
- Allow both planning & capital dollars to carry into future years
- Streamline reviews & permitting
- Strengthen predictable & accessible funding

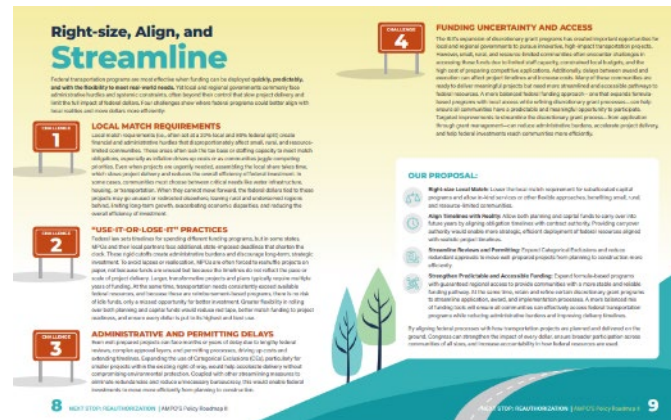
## Drive Safety Improvements Through Regional Action

- Fold SS4A program into HSIP with guaranteed regional access
- Strengthen regional role in bridge programs

# AMPO's Policy Roadmap III



- Outlines **AMPO's Legislative Priorities** for reauthorization
  - Reflecting Member Input
- Includes a **Member Action Playbook** to support MPO engagement
  - MPO Engagement Toolkit



The Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition amplifies the voices of thousands of organizations and individuals across the nation with a vested interest in the long-term success of our transportation system. Together, our members own, maintain, plan for, and support millions of road miles and hundreds of thousands of bridges nationwide.



# The System is Out of Balance

*Mismatch between...*



## **Ownership & Responsibility**

Local and regional governments plan for, own, and maintain the majority of infrastructure



## **Access to Resources**

These actors receive only ~14% of federal formula funding.



## **Scale of Local & Regional Needs**

Local infrastructure challenges are growing: aging bridges, safety crises, inflation, & the evolving needs of the system.



## **Access to Funding**

Funding levels have not kept pace with system demands & local needs.



## **Ownership & Responsibility**

Local and regional governments plan for, own, and maintain the majority of infrastructure



## **Decision-Making Authority**

States control obligation & often override local priorities for infrastructure decisions.

# Priorities: Restore the Balance

## 1. Rebalance Funding & Decision-Making Authority

- Streamline regional access to federal formula dollars.
- Strengthen the project selection process, accountability, and transparency.
- Keep local & regional eligibility for competitive programs, reduce red tape.
- Modernize formulas for safety and innovation → suballocate to regions.

## 2. Strengthen Planning & Project Delivery

- Boost MPO resources, eliminate match, deliver planning funds directly to MPOs, allow for carryover of funding.

## 3. Support Rural Regions

- Provide dedicated formula funding for RTPOs and strengthen coordination.

## 4. Streamline Delivery

- Right-size permitting, expand categorical exclusions, accelerate projects.



# Plug Into AMPO Engagement



## Carry the Message

- Share reauthorization materials with your Congressional delegation.
  - LOT Coalition Letter to EPW and T&I Committee
  - AMPO's Legislative Priorities
  - Regional Priorities
- Meet with your Congressional Delegation
- Engage your District Office
- Use AMPO's Engagement Toolkit

# Questions

**Katie Economou**

Legislative Director

[keconomou@ampo.org](mailto:keconomou@ampo.org)