

Negotiators Come to Agreement on Long-Term Transportation Bill

Highlights From New \$300 Billion Highway Trust Fund Bill



Boosts highway spending by 15% and transit spending by 18% over its duration



Will create a separate budget for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor apart from the rest of the nationwide system



\$200 million made available for commuter railroads to install positive train control technology to prevent collisions and derailments



Liability cap for passenger rail incidents raised from \$200 million to \$295 million



Will create a grant program guaranteeing funds for large freight projects



Provides \$1 billion for vehicle safety programs

President Obama is expected to sign the bill once it reaches his office.

Sources: Siobhan Hughes and Paul Page, "Lawmakers Reach Compromise on Five-Year Highway Bill," *The Wall Street Journal*, December 1, 2015; Associated Press, "Congress Reaches Deal on Elusive 5-Year, \$281-Billion Transportation Bill," *LA Times*, December 1, 2015; Marilyn Geewax, "In The Highway Bill, Some Find Road to Riches, Others Hit A Pothole," *National Public Radio*, December 3, 2015; Icons provided by Nikita Kozin, Jamie M. Laurel, Dmitry Mirolyubov, Yuki Orikasa, Arthur Shlain and Katya Sotnikova through The Noun Project