



**National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of State-Federal Relations**

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House Approves Long-Term Surface Transportation Bill: Moves to Conference with Senate

On Nov. 5, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the [Surface Transportation Reform and Reauthorization \(STRR\) Act of 2015](#), a six-year authorization for federal surface transportation programs, which authorizes \$261 billion to highway programs and \$74 billion to transit.

As the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) currently faces an [annual deficit of approximately \\$15 billion](#), which is forecast to grow to over \$20 billion over the next decade, the STRR Act includes a number of “pay-fors” to cover the gap between HTF revenues and expenditures.

While many of these pay-fors were similar to those included in the [Senate’s long-term bill, the DRIVE ACT](#), the House bill includes an additional pay-for that would transfer funds within the Federal Reserve surplus account to the HTF. Unfortunately, the value of all the pay-fors included does not cover the entire cost of the bill, meaning that Congress will likely have to appropriate additional pay-fors in approximately three years, depending on the rate at which states draw-down their allotted funding.

The House and Senate now move to conference with the aim of approving a final long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill before Nov. 20, when authorization for federal surface transportation programs expire.

Finally, we would like to once again thank all of you who contacted your House members and expressed concern about the [Davis-Titus Amendment](#), which was not included in the final bill.

Stay tuned to NCSL for further developments in Congress as it works to approve a long-term reauthorization. For any additional questions or concerns please contact NCSL staff [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).