



Senate Extends Funding for Current Surface Transportation Authorization



As the September 30 deadline to pass a new surface transportation reauthorization bill drew closer, it had become increasingly clear over the past few months that the Senate was falling behind its House counterpart in crafting legislation to succeed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; the House had already passed its version out of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in May.

On August 8, the Senate approved a stopgap funding measure extending the current surface transportation authorization through December 11, buying more time to draft the Senate version of the bill. That short-term funding measure still needs approval from the House of Representatives, which is away on August recess and set to return on August 31.

Conference Session Recap: Making Policy Fun



At ACT's recent **40th Annual International Conference**, our public policy sessions had a fun new twist. Two interactive game sessions challenged attendees to learn the ins and outs of federal transportation policy not through slideshows and panel discussions, but through games.

Policy can be dense, technical, and intimidating. ACT's public policy sessions this year were built on a simple idea: people learn better, and have more fun, when they're active participants instead of passive listeners.

The first session, "**Killabuster: Who Killed the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill?**," put attendees in the middle of a murder mystery. Playing Representatives, Senators, lobbyists, and constituents, participants worked through the twists and turns of the federal surface transportation reauthorization process, and saw firsthand just how easily a bill can go from moving forward to dead on arrival.

The second session, "**The Maximizing Transportation Efficiency Game**," took the format of a board game with a clear objective: get the Maximizing Transportation Efficiency Act (MTEA) - ACT's signature TDM legislation introduced this Congress - across the finish line. Along the way, players navigated procedural hurdles, gained lobbying power, and overturned current restrictions that make it difficult for TDM to be recognized and funded at the federal level.

Both sessions reflect ACT's broader commitment to demystifying policy for its members, proving that even a topic as complex as surface transportation reauthorization can be engaging, memorable, and fun.



State DOT Panel: Shifting the Narrative on Transportation Options



The Tuesday Keynote at ACT's 40th Annual International Conference featured a notable panel of state Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretaries and Commissioners on the familiar challenge: how do you get businesses, agencies, and the public to see commute options as a benefit rather than a burden?

Reframing the Business Case

Many businesses still view Transportation Demand Management (TDM) as a compliance cost rather than something that benefits them directly.

Panelists agreed the field needs to tell a better story — one that makes the case for commute options as good for the bottom line and the community, not just employees

That same narrative challenge extends to project delivery. Panelists pointed to an opportunity for TDM advocates to help define floor principles for performance metrics tied to federal funds — raising the question of what standards ACT and its members should be pushing for.

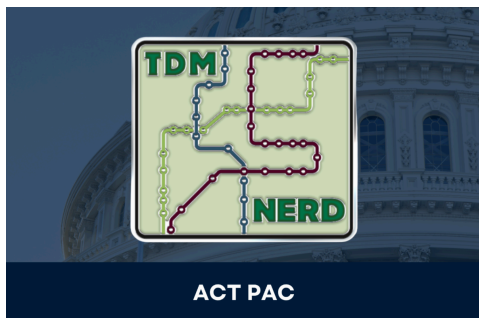
Working With State DOTs

Local organizations partnering with state DOTs also face real constraints. In Pennsylvania, for instance, constitutional restrictions bar state transportation dollars from funding non-roadway projects — a limit local TDM organizations have to plan around.

The Takeaway

Business partnerships, project delivery, state DOT relationships — the throughline is the same: better outcomes start with a better story.

ACT PAC: TDM Nerd Pin Fundraiser



A big shoutout to everyone who picked up a TDM Nerd pin at the conference! At the conference, **ACT PAC raised over \$1,200 to support TDM advocacy at the federal level** — funding that goes directly toward electing champions for our industry.

Didn't make it to Philadelphia, or want another pin for your lanyard? TDM Nerd pins are still available online, **and we're now able to ship them straight to your door.**

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