



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive  
Public Works Resource

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October 30, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Subject: Repealing \$7.6 billion Highway Contract Authority Rescission in T-HUD

Dear Senate Leaders:

The American Public Works Association (APWA) represents over 30,000 public works professionals across North America. We have a presence in every state as part of our 63 chapter-network. Our members are responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining all facets of our nation's infrastructure.

Today we are contacting you to first express our gratitude for honoring the funding authorization levels enacted for highway programs and transit by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) bill. As you work this week to finalize the T-HUD appropriations package for FY 2020, we urge you to support SA 1034 offered by Senator John Barrasso. This Amendment will repeal Section 1438 of the FAST Act, which requires the rescission of \$7.6 billion in unobligated Federal-aid highway program contract authority on July 1, 2020. Should the rescission occur, it will virtually wipe out all remaining contract authority available to the states in core highway formula programs.

It is especially critical to repeal the provision this year because in the worst-case scenario, there may be a de-obligation of funding for existing projects in order to provide the necessary amount of contract authority to be rescinded. If this happens next spring or summer at the peak of the construction season, the impact will be especially devastating. Furthermore, the lack of funding flexibility resulting from the rescission will severely undermine the ability of current or future transportation projects to meet their deadlines and objectives. APWA's members are strongly focused on the responsible stewardship of funding, enhancing effective streamlining measures, and continuing to increase safety for the traveling public on our nation's transportation infrastructure. The rescission would deeply harm these efforts.

PRESIDENT  
William E. (Bill) Spearman III, PE.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Scott D. Grayson



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Lastly, we would like to state our strong support for S. 1992, a standalone bill to cancel the rescission passed by the Senate Environment Public Works on July 30, 2019. We are especially appreciative of the bipartisan support on this issue from co-sponsors: Senators Alexander, Barrasso, Booker, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Cornyn, Cramer, Duckworth, Gillibrand, Inhofe, Markey, Merkley, Roberts, Sanders, Sullivan, VanHollen, and Whitehouse. We believe this strong show of support recognizes the urgent need to repeal the FAST Act rescission through any legislation necessary, including T-HUD, the National Defense Authorization Act, or another year-end vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration, and if you would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Andrea Eales, APWA's Director of Government and Public Affairs at [aeales@apwa.net](mailto:aeales@apwa.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Spearman, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "B" and "S".

Bill Spearman  
APWA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Grayson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "S" and "G".

Scott Grayson  
APWA Executive Director

PRESIDENT  
William E. (Bill) Spearman III, PE.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Scott D. Grayson