Arkansas Public Transit Association Federal Reauthorization & Regulatory Outlook

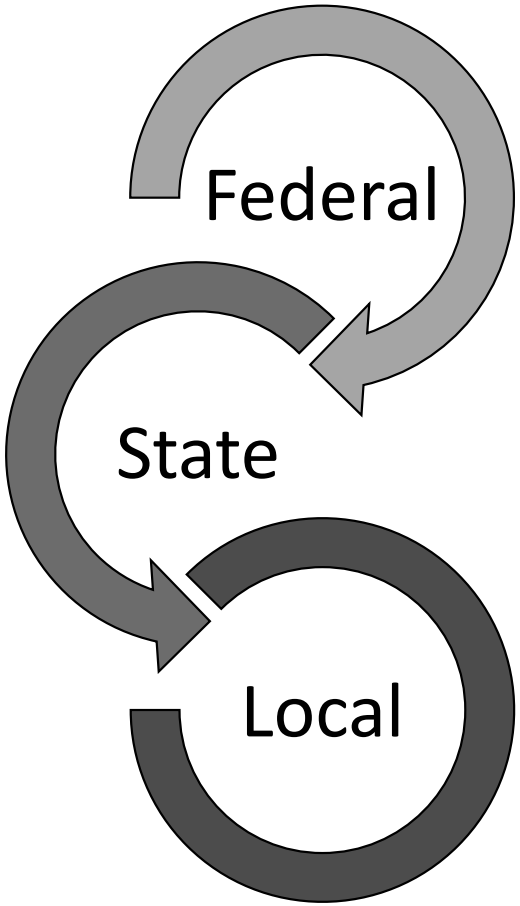
SWTA Federal Affairs Update 2026

Building the Case for Flexible, Sustainable Transit Investment

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Funding Matrix

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Generated Revenue:

- Fares
- Contracted Service
- Advertising
- Real Estate

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THE 3 A'S OF FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

Authorization

The level at which Congress sets a specific program is expected to receive over a given period – often multiple years

Example:

The FAST Act
IIJA/BIL

APPROPRIATION

Congressional approval of a previously-authorized funding level for a given fiscal year, often as part of the federal budget effort

Example:

T-HUD Appropriations

APPORTIONMENT

Appropriated funding distributed to specific recipients through formula programs by the federal agency charged with administering that program

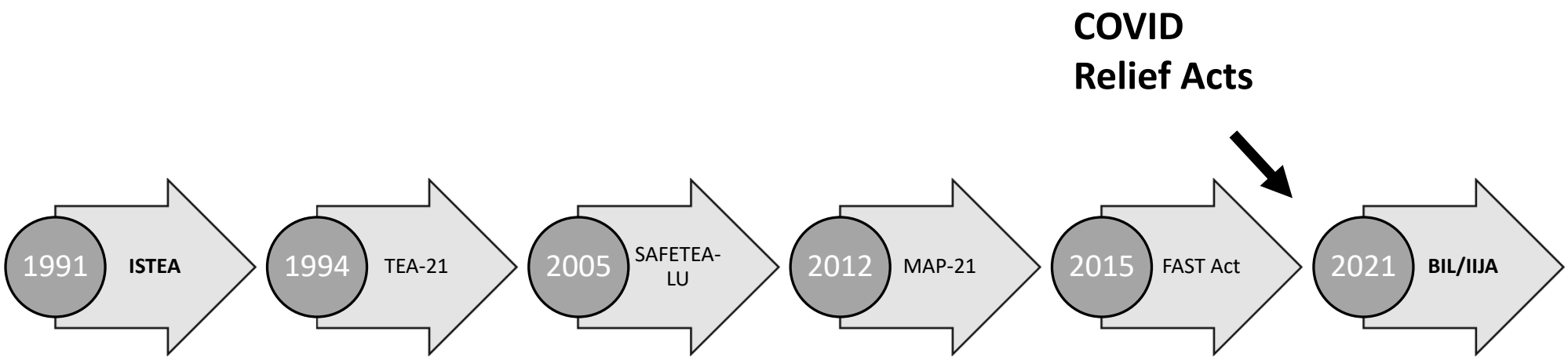
Example:

FTA Section 5311(c)(1)(b) Tribal Transit Apportionment Tables

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Federal Funding Timeline

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BIL/IIJA Expired September 30, 2026

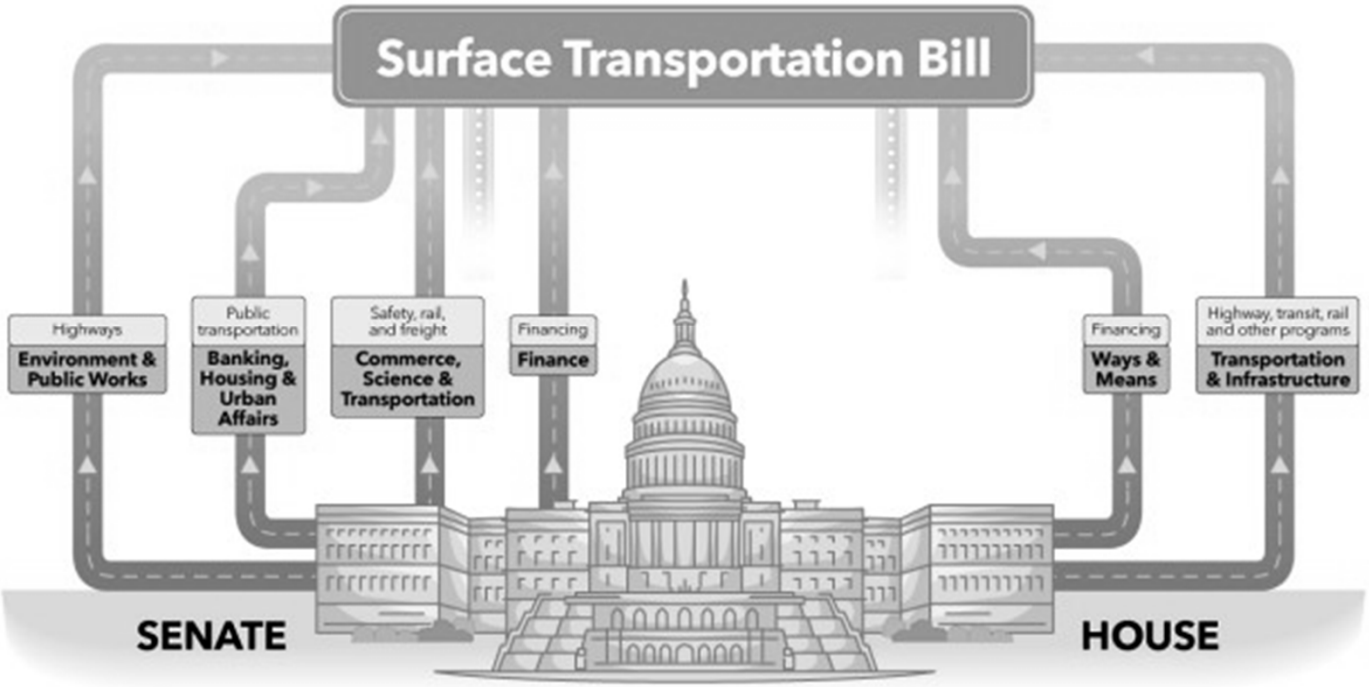
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Federal Funding Decision Makers

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Committees Responsible for Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Several panels will play a role in a long-term reauthorization.



Note: Additional committees – including House Energy and Commerce and Science, Space and Technology – may also be involved in the final bill.

Sources: Bloomberg Government reporting, Congressional Research Service

Bloomberg Government

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What matters in Reauthorization (LAST YEAR)

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APPROPRIATIONS = AUTHORIZATION

FLEXIBILITY IN OPERATING MATCH RATIO

CDL REFORM (FMCSA Under-the hood waiver Requires State Action)

Refreshed Vision for NTD (account for efficient service)

Address Driver Shortages & Vehicles Delays

INCENTIVIZE INNOVATION

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Legislative Priorities of SWTA

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Increase and Protect Federal Transit Investment

Rural and small urban providers depend heavily on formula funding to maintain service, replace vehicles, and meet growing community needs.

Strengthen Rural, Tribal, and Community Mobility Programs

Communities in the SWTA region cover vast geographic areas where transit is often the only transportation option available.

Reduce Administrative Burden and Increase Local Flexibility

Small, rural, and tribal transit systems frequently operate with limited staff and resources. Every dollar spent on administration is a dollar unavailable for delivering service to the communities and people served.

Invest in Transit Workforce and Fleet Modernization

Aging fleets and workforce shortages remain among the greatest challenges facing transit operators throughout the industry.

Improve Safety, Security, and System Resilience

Rural and small urban transit providers play a vital role in emergency response, community resilience, and access to essential services.

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Action Plan for ATA

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Keep in contact with your federal offices, let them know what you're doing



Demonstrate value & results



Maintain & strengthen partnerships



Don't be the best-kept secret

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SWTA Events

SWTA Federal Affairs Update 2026

- SWTA Board of Directors DC Fly-In: November 18 – 20, 2026 to meet with committees as part of Reauthorization efforts.
- SWTA Annual Conference and Expo: January 26 – 29, 2027 in Tulsa Oklahoma



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Contact Information

SWTA Federal Affairs Update 2026

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