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REPORT: **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
 UPDATED 8/18/2022

APPROPRIATIONS/BUDGET

August 16, 2022. President Biden signed H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act, into law. The White House is planning a celebration of the bill’s enactment for September 6, when Congress returns from their August recess. In the meantime, the President plans to travel across the country to highlight the law, as Democrats attempt to sell voters on their legislative achievement in the crucial months before November’s midterm elections. Transit provisions in H.R. 5376 are explained below.

August 12, 2022. The House passed H.R. 5376 by a party-line vote of 220-207. Overall, the bill imposes new taxes on large, profitable corporations, spends \$87 billion over a decade on new workers and technology at the Internal Revenue Service, caps insulin costs for Medicare recipients, puts Medicare on course to negotiate drug prices and funds hundreds of billions in tax subsidies intended to combat climate change. The package is the result of stop-and-go work on the bill that started last year. An initial \$3.5 trillion vision was whittled down to roughly \$2 trillion. Dubbed Build Back Better, the legislation passed the House, only to be blocked in the Senate by Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV). Talks between Senator Manchin and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) yielded a deal leading to the final package.

August 7, 2022. The Senate passed H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act, by a vote of 51-50. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the bill includes important provisions that benefit public transit.

- Extends excise tax credits for alternative fuels, biodiesel, and renewable diesel;
- Extends and substantially restructures the alternative fuel vehicle property credit;
- Establishes a new commercial clean vehicle tax credit; and
- Provides significant new investments in climate, zero-emission technology, equity, and environmental review, including \$27 billion for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; \$3.2 billion for Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants; and \$2 billion for Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants.

The Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants Program would be administered through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA will provide competitive grants to states, local governments, and public authorities with a transportation function, and metropolitan planning organizations. The federal share is 80 percent, except that the federal share of projects in disadvantaged or underserved communities may be up to 100 percent. <https://bit.ly/3zMMsiq>

Effect on RTD: It is unclear whether the tax credits will benefit RTD, given the District's tax-exempt status. Discussions with APTA are needed to provide more clarity on this issue.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFOS) – GRANT AWARDS

August 11, 2022. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced the award of \$2.2 billion for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to help urban and rural communities move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable. There were several transit grants awarded, including \$15 million for the Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority, to replace a transit facility and support conversion to a zero-emission bus fleet. The new transit facility will also have capacity for solar power generation. <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>

Effect on RTD: RTD could benefit from applying for the RAISE grants in the next year to fund a zero-emission transit facility.

OTHER REPORTS/NOTICES/NEWS ARTICLES

August 15, 2022. The USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking announced they are seeking nominations for members. The goal of the committee is to provide information, advice, and recommendations on the intersection of human trafficking and transportation. Applications must be received by October 7. <https://bit.ly/3K8T1R1>

Effect on RTD: This announcement is informational.