The US Senate approved its first package of **FY20 Appropriations Bill**, which included funding for the US Department of Transportation. Included in the “mini-bus” was a bipartisan amendment to prevent an automatic 12% ($1.2 billion) across the board cut to public transportation. This resulted from the transit account of the Highway Trust Fund’s failure to pass the Rostenkowski rule, that requires the account to have a certain amount of future receipts to cover unfunded transit authorizations.

The current continuing resolution (CR) included the same language, but that protection ends on November 21 when the CR expires. The Senate cleared the bill by a vote of 84-9, but the Senate bill still needs to be reconciled with the House version of the bill, and ultimately signed into law by the President. With Congress out next week, Congress will need to pass another CR to keep the federal government open past November 21.