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## COVID-19 Update 10-2-20

### **Congress Clears Stopgap Funding Bill, FAST Act Extension**

The House and Senate have passed a "Continuing Resolution" to fund federal government programs through December 11 and extend expiring surface transportation programs for one year. The President signed the bill into law, avoiding a lapse at the beginning of the new fiscal year. ACEC and other stakeholder groups, including AASHTO, had [advocated for the one-year extension](#) of the FAST Act to provide certainty and funding stability for state and local transportation agencies. The bill also includes a \$13.6 billion transfer to the Highway Trust Fund to keep the account solvent through Fiscal Year 2021.

Lawmakers will attempt to finalize a package of annual appropriations bills in a post-election lame duck session of Congress. Legislative efforts on a long-term reauthorization of surface transportation programs will begin again with a new Congress next year.

### **ACEC ACTION ALERT: Engineering Industry Priorities for Economic Relief Package**

As Congress negotiates an economic relief package, ACEC member action is requested to highlight urgent industry priorities.

[Click Here to Contact Your Representative and Senators](#)

ACEC member firm representatives have already sent more than 1,400 messages to lawmakers in support of fiscal relief for state and local governments hard hit by pandemic response actions. Join them and take action now to emphasize the need for immediate funding to state departments of transportation, transit agencies, airports, and water utilities whose revenues have declined precipitously. This funding backstop will preserve critical services and keep projects from being cancelled or delayed in 2021.

Other priorities include clarifying the tax treatment of PPP loan proceeds and liability protections for employers that take reasonable efforts to comply with coronavirus standards and regulations. Congressional leaders are still working with the White House on the next economic relief package, so time is of the essence to make sure these priorities are included.

### **NC Chamber Launches "[Destination 2030 Coalition](#)" Initiative**

**ACEC/NC part of the Leadership Team: To Read More click [here](#)**

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