

**Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority**

# Federal Government Affairs

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June 2024

# Government Affairs Overview

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- Communicate and collaborate with elected officials, staff, and other government stakeholders regarding MBTA service, projects, and high priority initiatives.
- Field, manage, and resolve constituent issues.
- Advocate for local, state, and federal funding and policies that promote a robust and equitable public transit system.
- Assess and monitor legislative risks in the state legislature and in Congress.



# Where We Are Today

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- Under GM Eng's leadership, we have reorganized our Government Affairs team to improve how we interact with the Federal Government.
- We have taken several trips to Washington D.C. to with two main goals:
  - Build relationships with Federal Agencies, APTA and peer transit agencies.
  - Lay the necessary groundwork to build coalitions to influence policy and funding.
- Visits to D.C. include:
  - July 2023 for introductory meetings with FTA leadership.
  - January 2024 for meetings with USDOT counterparts, White House Infrastructure office and delegation-wide briefings;
  - April 2024 to attend APTA's 2024 Legislative Conference and to meet with delegation staff.



# American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

- APTA is a nonprofit international association of more than 1,500 public and private sector member organizations that:
  - Advocates for federal funding and policies.
  - Provides technical expertise and research to members.
  - Hosts educational conferences and seminars.
- MBTA is a member agency, but in the last year we have taken active leadership role, particularly regarding legislative and policy discussions.
- Recently became members of the Legislative and Policy Committee.



# Legislation in 117<sup>th</sup> Congress: Policy

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- Funding Flexibility in President Biden's FY25 Budget Proposal
  - Would allow § 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds to be used for operating expenses.
  - In addition, the Budget proposes to allow highway funds (including unobligated balances) transferred to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in FY 2025 to be used for operating assistance.
- National Defense Authorization Act
  - Sometimes contains provisions with impacts to transit agency procurement policies.
  - Currently being considered by Senate Armed Services Committee.
- Moving Transit Forward Act
  - Introduced by Senators Chris Van Hollen (Md.) and John Fetterman (Pa.)
  - Creates a new funding formula for operational assistance for service improvements, safety, and security enhancements under FTA. This is similar to legislation filed by Cong. Hank Johnson (Ga.) in the U.S. House of Representatives.



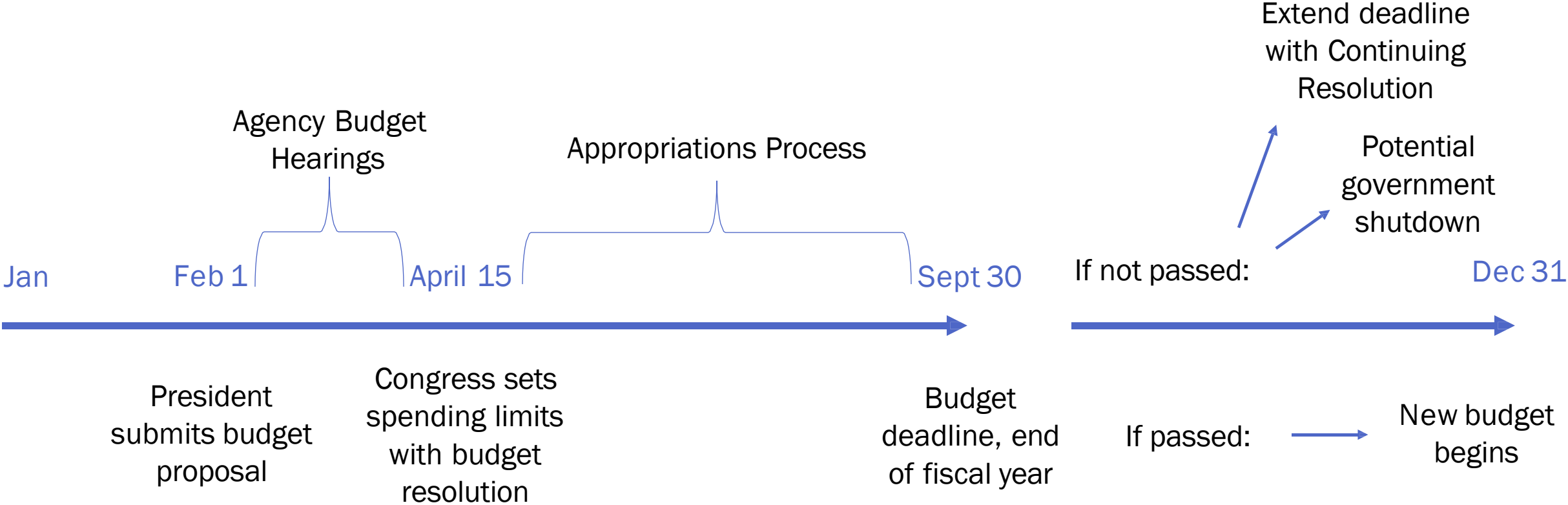
# Legislation in 117<sup>th</sup> Congress: Funding

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- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Act
  - FY24 Appropriations package passed and signed into law earlier this spring. Included \$20.85B in public transit funding and \$16.25B in passenger/freight rail.
  - FY25 appropriations process currently underway.
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization
  - The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) included a five-year reauthorization of federal highway, highway safety, transit, and rail programs for fiscal years 2022 through 2026. The law authorized \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending with \$550 billion of that figure going toward "new" investments and programs.
  - Reauthorization process for next five years currently underway.

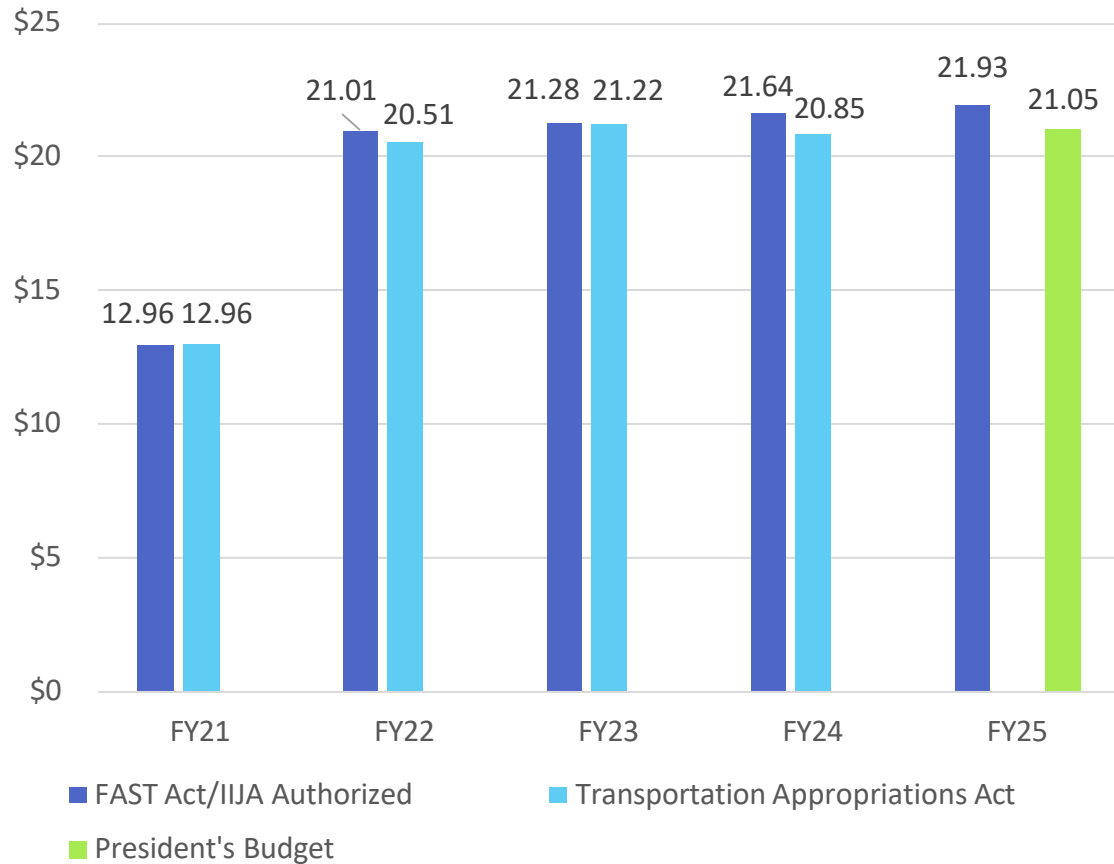


# Federal Budget Process

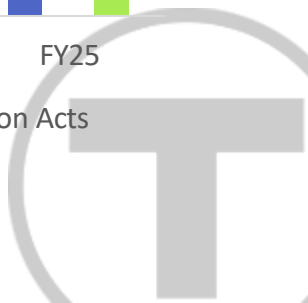
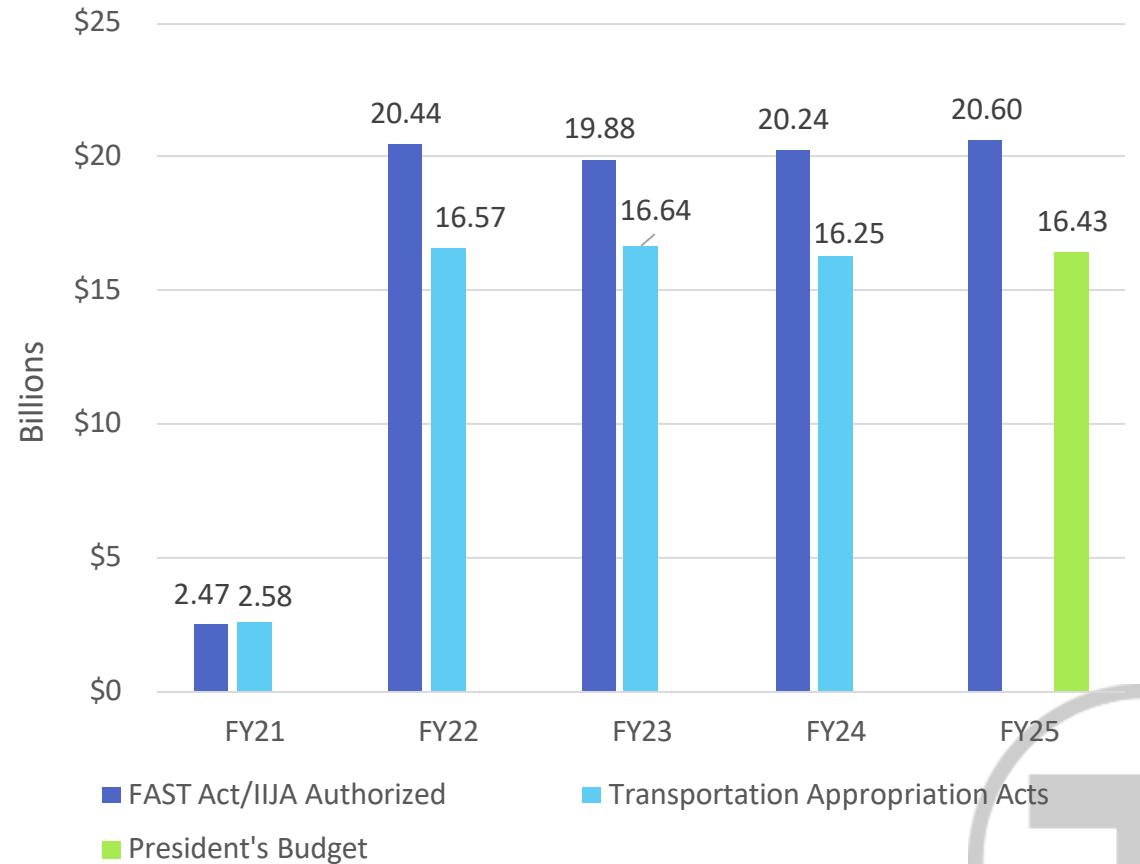


# Federal Transportation Funding

## Public Transit



## Passenger & Freight Rail





# Working with the Congressional Delegation

- Regular communication with Congressional offices on MBTA projects and priorities.
- Information sharing on pending legislation and regulatory rulemaking.
- Coordination on notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) and securing letters of support for federal grants.
- Coordination with the Governor's Director of Federal Affairs and Director of Federal Funds.



# Moving Forward

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- Participate actively in APTA's Legislative and Policy committees.
- Identify legislation that increases operational assistance.
- Continue engagement with Congressional Delegation and staff on MBTA's federal priorities.
- Coordinate with peer transit agencies and transit advocates to build coalitions and maximize operational federal funding levels.
- Work with internal departments on identifying funding opportunities.
  - For example, FHWA flex funding authorized under the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

