

JPACT Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: 2026 Federal Advocacy Priorities Consideration

Presenters: Betsy Emery, Federal Affairs Advisor, Oregon Metro

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Betsy Emery, Betsy.Emery@oregonmetro.gov

Purpose/Objective

Each year, JPACT travels to D.C. to advocate to members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the transportation policy and funding priorities that would benefit the region. With the current surface transportation bill, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), expiring on September 30, 2026, JPACT's federal advocacy has largely focused on the next surface transportation reauthorization bill.

In May, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released the highly anticipated *BUILD America 250 Act* (BA250), their draft of the next surface transportation reauthorization bill, giving JPACT specific policy proposals to consider as advocacy priorities for the 2026 trip are finalized.

During this agenda item, staff will provide a high-level overview of the BA250 bill and present a set of federal advocacy priorities for consideration. The proposed priorities were informed by staff review of the BA250 in comparison to JPACT's 2025 adopted federal and state advocacy priorities, other JPACT-adopted policies like the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan, and conversations among electeds as well as transportation policy and governmental affairs staff at multiple jurisdictions represented at the JPACT table.

Background

In advance of the annual JPACT trip to D.C., JPACT adopts a set of federal advocacy priorities that inform what the JPACT discusses with members of the Congressional delegation and the USDOT.

The attached "Federal Advocacy Priorities" document will serve as the text for the "leave behind" materials. Staff from JPACT member jurisdictions collaborated to update JPACT's 2025 federal advocacy priorities to reflect the current Administration's and Congressional transportation policies and proposals. Further, in response to the recent release of the *BUILD America 250 Act*, staff included an additional document to accompany the "Federal Advocacy Priorities" leave behind materials that outlines a concise list of what JPACT wants to see included or amended in any final legislation based on last year's adopted priorities for the reauthorization bill.

The BUILD America 250 Act

The BA250 is a 5-year bipartisan package that authorizes \$580 billion for federal surface transportation programs. As anticipated, the bill is much narrower in scope and focuses on traditional transportation infrastructure. It includes the largest ever investment in bridges, significant permitting reforms, an electric vehicle and plug in hybrid electric vehicle fee structure, the first ever autonomous commercial motor vehicle framework, and repeals several climate-related programs established under the IIJA. Disagreements between the House and Senate over key provisions, limited legislative days on the Congressional calendar, and a high stakes mid-term election make it unlikely an entirely new reauthorization bill will be passed by the September 30, 2026 deadline. An extension of the IIJA's existing authorities is anticipated.

Outcome

JPACT will learn about the *BUILD America 250 Act* and consider the proposed federal advocacy priorities, which will inform the D.C. trip materials and talking points.

What has changed since JPACT last considered this issue/item?

Staff provided an update on the surface transportation reauthorization bill during the April 2026 JPACT meeting. Staff was scheduled to present the draft advocacy priorities for feedback during the June 2026 JPACT meeting, but that presentation was bumped to accommodate the IBR agenda item. This agenda item will be the first time that JPACT discusses the 2026 federal advocacy priorities for the D.C. trip. JPACT will not consider these again before the September trip.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- JPACT Federal Advocacy Priorities 2026