

Memo

Date: March 30, 2020

To: Kevin Artl, ACEC Executive Director

From: Rebeca Mason, ACEC Lobbying

Re: Summary of Illinois Transportation Impacts from Federal Coronavirus Stimulus Package

Transit

\$25 billion in additional funding will be put through the federal transit funding formulas for operations assistance to transit agencies. Senator Durbin's office estimates \$1.6 billion will go to Illinois transit agencies. Nearly all of that is expected to be in the RTA region. RTA is estimating \$1.3 billion will come to their region, but because it runs through formula that number could be slightly off. For the service boards, we know that there will be about \$800 million for the CTA, over \$400 million for Metra, and over \$100 million for Pace. This funding is for operations—not capital. The RTA's total normal operating budget is about \$3 billion.

Airports

\$10 billion in additional funding will be put through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant program, with \$9.5 billion available for "any purpose for which airport revenues may lawfully be used," which goes beyond normal AIP allowable uses. \$100 million will be available for general aviation airports and the funds for commercial service airports will be allocated based on enplanement numbers and (federal) FY 18 debt service. Because this is a grant program, state by state breakdowns aren't clear yet. The Airport Improvement grants are available to all airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, which includes all commercial service airports, reliever airports, and select public-owned general aviation airports. In 2019, Illinois received funding through the program for 13 airports and for the state's block grant program.

Passenger Rail

Amtrak is receiving more than \$1 billion in additional funding and the funding for state-supported routes is also included. The total amount for state-supported routes comes to \$239 million. Illinois typically budgets about \$50 million out of the Road Fund for the state-supported routes here in Illinois.

General Fund Stabilization

\$150 billion in funding will be directed to the states to stabilize their budgets. Illinois will receive \$5 billion.

Other Issues

Impact to Road Fund of Coronavirus

It is too early to tell exactly how much Motor Fuel Tax Receipts will be affected by the coronavirus crisis. However, receipts in March are currently down about \$7 million from February levels. The greatest impact is likely to be seen in April. Local governments will see the biggest impact from lower motor fuel receipts. They also saw a reduction in their grant programs for FY 20 as a result of the operating budget being passed prior to the capital bill. The legislature was planning to correct that issue, but local governments may not see the increase until June or July.