

Update from Washington:

FHWA will be soliciting FY 2012 grant application in the very near future, possibly as soon as next week. Please watch [www.bywaysonline.org](http://www.bywaysonline.org).

Appropriations: The Senate passed an amended fiscal 2012 “minibus” appropriations package on Tuesday, setting the stage for a conference with the House that could start this week. The bill (HR 2112), passed 69-30, combines the Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Transportation-HUD spending bills. The package would provide a total of about \$128 billion in discretionary spending, not including emergency disaster funding. While a date has not yet been set, a conference could begin as early as Thursday, according to a House Republican aide. FHWA is currently operating under a continuing resolution through November 18.

Authorization: Senate Environment and Public Works chairman Barbara Boxer and her ranking minority member, Sen. Jim Inhofe hope to make public the text of their bipartisan two-year, \$85.3 billion Federal Highway Administration reauthorization bill by the end of this week.