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NEW LONDON PARKING AUTHORITY  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
160 WATER STREET, NEW LONDON, CT



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## Transportation Advisory Council

**RE:** National Transportation & Infrastructure

You may have heard about the big \$1.3 trillion spending bill that Congress considered recently. The highlights transportation wins—particularly for rail and transit are as follows:

*The bill includes:*

- **\$650 million for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor account**—a \$322 million increase over last fiscal year's spending level. Because Amtrak runs an operating profit on the NEC, that \$650 million will go straight to crucial capital projects that affect the whole corridor;
- **\$1.5 billion for TIGER**—a \$1 billion increase over last fiscal year's spending level;
- **\$250 million for the Federal-state partnership for State of Good Repair Program**—a \$225 million increase over last fiscal year's spending level. This is perhaps the most important grant program for the NEC, since it provides a federal match for the intra-state spending that needs to occur along the corridor to attack the backlog of projects;
- **\$592.5 million for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program**—a \$525 million increase over last fiscal year's spending level. This is a competitive grant program that funds capital projects and safety investments. \$250 million of the \$592.5 million is set aside for the implementation of Positive Train Control—a technology that would have prevented the Philadelphia Amtrak crash. This bill also includes a provision to make commuter rail operators—like Metro-North—eligible for the grant for the first time.
- **\$2.645 billion for Capital Investment Grants**—a \$232 million increase over last fiscal year's spending level. This includes money for New Starts, Small Starts, and the Core Capacity Grant Program.

Overall, it's a great bill for national transportation infrastructure including without limitation rail, short and long-haul bus systems, intermodal transportation centers, and mobility. As the appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2019 and the looming long-term highway/transit authorization that needs to happen at the end of Fiscal Year 2020, I'll try to keep you updated on these subject matters.

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