



CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY

October 7, 2015

NJ DOT COMMISSIONER FOX RESIGNS UTCA THANKS HIM FOR HIS SERVICE

On Friday, October 2nd it was announced that Commissioner Jamie Fox would be leaving the New Jersey Department of Transportation at the end of the month to return to the private sector. Commissioner Fox brought stability to the NJDOT and greatly improved relations with the construction industry in his short time during his second stint as Commissioner. Commissioner Fox did an excellent job of highlighting the impending crisis and insolvency of the Transportation Trust Fund. He brought attention to the unacceptable condition of the State's transportation infrastructure and lobbied hard for a long term and robust renewal of the Transportation Trust Fund. In addition, as Commissioner, Jamie worked with UTCA to implement numerous construction specification changes that were beneficial to the industry and improved overall lines of communication between the Department and the association. Current Deputy Commissioner Joseph Bertoni will become the Acting Commissioner of the Department.

The Board of Directors and staff of the UTCA wish Commissioner Fox continued success in his private sector career and thank him for his public service as Commissioner.

CONGRESS APPROVES SHORT TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTION MEASURE AND AVERTS GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN

Hours before the September 30, 2015 midnight deadline last week, Congress approved a stopgap spending measure to fund the federal government at the federal fiscal year 2015 appropriation levels. The temporary Continuing Resolution legislation will finance federal programs through December 11, 2015. To date, the House has passed a number of appropriation bills while Senate Committees have moved only a few spending bills.

Congressional budget negotiations will have to resume shortly in order to avoid a government shutdown on December 12th. Automatic spending cuts to all federal programs are in effect and Republican leaders are seeking to increase military spending while the President and Democrats want to increase spending on domestic programs. This will complicate negotiations unless Congressional leaders can find longer-term savings elsewhere in the budget.

The short term Continuing Resolution is good news for Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs. Currently the Clean Water SRF FY 2015 program is funded at \$1.448 billion and the Safe Drinking Water SRF spending is \$906 million. Both the House and Senate have proposed spending cuts to these construction programs for federal fiscal year 2016. Under the Continuing Resolution, the higher FY 2015 spending levels will continue.

For the transportation industry, the Continuing Resolution represents another time Congress has failed to address a funding issue that requires action to raise or reallocate revenues. The Highway Trust Fund will continue to be flat funded at the annual \$40 billion level and the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 has been extended 6 months to March 31, 2016. In September, Congress approved short term extensions to the federal highway and transit programs.

UTCA will continue to work with our national affiliates, ARTBA and the Clean Water Construction Coalition, to advocate for the highest spending levels for our nation's infrastructure programs.

EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

The Association has received resumes from two individuals seeking employment in the heavy/civil construction industry. Please note the following:

- * This person has experience as an accident investigator, Fire Marshall, safety training, firefighter, EMT/Paramedic, emergency management and other skills.
- * This individual has experience as a Project Manager Assistant and an Executive Assistant in the construction industry.

The resumes for these individuals can be obtained by contacting the UTCA office.