Notification to ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division Grantees:

In late December, 2018 the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a notification regarding their operations during a lapse in annual appropriations. This notification detailed specific impacts to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operations during the ongoing partial federal government shutdown. Of particular relevance is the statement that:

“FTA would not make grant payments using FTA’s Financial Management Systems or vendor payments to contractors using the DELPHI accounting systems regardless of the fiscal year cited since appropriations would not be available to pay the salaries of the staff certifying the payments.”

All currently active ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division (RPTD) FTA grant agreements are funded with prior years of FTA apportionments, so the agreements’ underlying funding is not in jeopardy. However, since FTA staff who process grant payments have been furloughed, the ability to make payments against existing obligations is affected by the ongoing partial federal government shutdown. As a result, effective January 8, 2019, all FTA-funded reimbursements submitted against RPTD grant agreements must be held until federal government operations resume. This includes any reimbursements that were pending in OPTIS, RPTD’s grant management system, as of January 8, 2019. (See federal grant agreement clause 6.b.i. for details on under what circumstances RPTD can withhold grant disbursements.)

Once federal government operations resume, reimbursements will be processed as quickly as possible in the order received.

Recipients are encouraged to continue to submit reimbursement requests in OPTIS so that those transactions can be processed expeditiously once the partial federal government shutdown ends.

We apologize for the unintended impact of this situation and will keep you updated as the situation evolves.

H. A. (Hal) Gard, ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division Administrator