

## **Transportation Weekly – Update**

### **Reid halts amendment process on Sandy supplemental**

**December 20, 2012 – 8:15 a.m.**

Yesterday afternoon, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) went to the Senate floor and asked unanimous consent to modify his pending amendment (#3371) to the Sandy supplemental appropriations bill (substitute #3338 to H.R. 1) to include all nine of his proposed amendments to the bill and to divide the question nine ways. Democrats on the floor were apparently asleep at the switch and did not object to Coburn's unanimous consent request, which could have entitled him to roll call votes on all nine of his proposals, some of which would have been uncomfortable for proponents of specific provisions...

When the Senate reconvened at 9:46 p.m., acting Appropriations chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) withdrew the pending substitute amendment (the Sandy supplemental) #3338, and all pending amendments to that substitute (including Coburn's) were then automatically withdrawn. Majority Leader Reid then offered a new substitute (#3395, based on the old substitute but incorporating some friendly non-transportation amendments). Reid then offered a variety of other amendments and motions related to his new substitute so as to preclude any other Senators from offering any amendments (called "filling the amendment tree"), then Reid filed cloture on the whole shebang.

Senators must file amendments to the new Sandy substitute by 1 p.m. today (though they cannot actually offer any of those amendments unless Reid withdraws one of his first)...