Federal Policymaking: Brave New Frontier
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• General Political Climate

• Specific Areas of Importance
  ✓ WRDA RAMP Act
  ✓ Ballast Waters Discharge Standard
  ✓ Infrastructure
Political Climate

- Tea Kettle Atmosphere
Political Climate

- Tea Kettle Atmosphere
- Tax and Spending Implications
Political Climate

- Tea Kettle Atmosphere
- Tax and Spending Implications
- Congressional Approval
Political Climate

- Tea Kettle Atmosphere
- Tax and Spending Implications
- Congressional Approval
- Campaign Factors
Policy Issues of the Moment
Policy Issues of the Moment

- Water Resources Development Act/RAMP
- Ballast Waters Discharge Standards
- Infrastructure
- Budget
Water Resources Development Act
Water Resources Development Act

- Earmarks Ban Precludes Options
- “Policy” Bill
- Limited Legislation
  - “Mission Creep”
  - Regulatory Reform
  - New Starts
Transportation Bill
Transportation Bill

- TIGER Grants
- Intermodal
- Maritime Corridors
- RAMP/Harbor Maintenance Trust
Transportation Bill

• TIGER Grants

• Intermodal

• Maritime Corridors

• RAMP/ Harbor Maintenance Trust

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FEDERAL INVESTMENT LAGGING
Trust Fund Surplus Skyrocketing

Sources: AAPA, Budgets of the United States, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Acts, MARAD, and the Corps of Engineers.
Ballast Water Standards and Controls
Ballast Water Standards and Controls

- U.S. Coast Guard Approved Technology Standards March 2012
- U.S. EPA Numerical Standards
- Final CWA VGP Permit November 2012
- Litigation??????
Infrastructure Policy
Infrastructure Policy

- Debate Paradigm Shift: Financing not Funding
- Options
  - Trust Fund
  - TIGER Grants
  - TIFIA
  - Infrastructure Bank
  - Private Activity Bonds
Budgetary Disaster
Budgetary Disaster

- Fiscal Year 2013
- Continuing Resolution
- Sequestration
- Tax Cuts Expire
- Debt Ceiling Increase
- Health Care