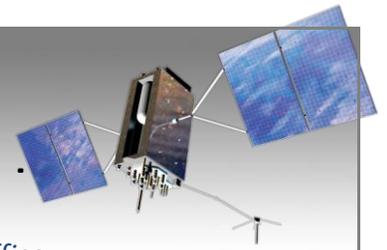


GPS

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Information for Policymakers from the National Coordination Office
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

July 2012

Civil GPS Funding Line Faces Major Cuts in Transportation Appropriations Bill

The House passed its FY 2013 transportation spending package (H.R. 5972) on June 29, cutting \$25 million from DOT's \$40 million civil GPS line item. The account pays for new civil upgrades to GPS. In April, Senate appropriators recommended a \$21 million cut to this funding line.

The House bill also calls for a \$4 million cut to the \$96 million Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), an FAA enhancement to GPS for aviation safety. Other GPS augmentations received full funding. The Senate bill (S. 2322) fully funds WAAS, but cuts FAA's NextGen account that includes the Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) and Alternative PNT.

Separately, the House bill includes a ban on the use of funds to mandate GPS tracking of motor vehicles. For the latest information about all FY 2013 GPS appropriations, please visit <http://www.gps.gov/policy/funding/2013/>.

Senate Authorizers Provide Guidance for GPS Program

On May 24, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013 (S. 3254). The committee recommended full funding for every Air Force line item in the GPS budget except OCX, which was cut by \$1.5 million. The Senate marks align exactly with those passed by the full House in May. S. 3254 also contains a provision to repeal the biennial GPS report to Congress. For complete details, see <http://www.gps.gov/policy/funding/2013/#NDAA>.

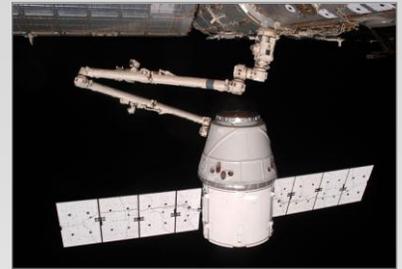
Congressmen Express Support for GPS Program at Educational Event on Capitol Hill



On May 31, Reps. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) and Pete Olson (R-TX) spoke in support of the national GPS program at an educational forum on GPS modernization. "To propel our economic business engine and ensure national security, we must continue to fund the sustainment and modernization of GPS," said Perlmutter in an accompanying

commentary published in *Space News*. The event was organized by several aerospace firms and included exhibits from various GPS user groups. Over 20 members of Congress as well as numerous staffers were in attendance.

Application Spotlight: SpaceX Mission to ISS



On May 25, SpaceX of Hawthorne, CA, made history by becoming the first commercial firm to deliver cargo to the International Space Station (ISS). GPS technology played an important role in the mission.

The Falcon 9 rocket that launched the mission used GPS data in conjunction with inertial sensors for guidance. Once in space, the Dragon spacecraft used GPS to allow mission control and the ISS to track its location. Then, it successfully tested a GPS-based system to conduct proximity operations near the space station.

The success of the mission cleared the way for SpaceX to begin fulfilling a NASA contract for 12 cargo flights to the ISS, and work toward developing crew capabilities for Dragon.



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