

# Federal Update

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City of Seattle

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# Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

- On June 24, President Biden and a bipartisan group of Senators reached a deal on a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package.
- The infrastructure plan includes funding for roads, transit, bridges, broadband, EV infrastructure, clean energy, and water.
- Proposed funding for the package comes from several sources:
  - Stronger tax enforcement, redirecting unused unemployment insurance relief funds, extending expiring customs user fees, reinstating Superfund fees, 5G spectrum auction proceeds.
- The bill is a scaled-back version of the president's American Jobs Plan.
  - The second half of Biden's infrastructure proposal, known as the **American Families Plan**, includes \$1.8 trillion for major investments in education, child care, and paid family leave. Many of these priorities will be advanced through budget reconciliation.

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework

The framework includes \$579 billion in new spending over five years for a total of \$973 billion over five years, or \$1.2 trillion over eight years. Details include:

- **\$312 billion for Transportation**

- \$109 billion for roads, bridges & major projects
- \$66 billion for passenger & freight rail
- \$49 billion for public transit
- \$25 billion for airports
- \$20 billion for an infrastructure financing authority
- \$6 billion for ports and waterways
- \$7.5 billion for electric vehicles (EV) infrastructure
- \$7.5 billion for Electric buses/transit
- \$11 billion for safety
- \$1 billion for reconnecting communities
- \$20 billion for infrastructure financing

- **\$266 billion for “Other” Infrastructure**

- \$73 billion for power infrastructure
- \$65 billion for broadband infrastructure
- \$55 billion for water infrastructure
- \$47 billion for resilience
- \$21 billion for environmental remediation
- \$5 billion for western water storage

# Water Infrastructure

Congress is expected to incorporate two major water infrastructure measures into the upcoming bipartisan infrastructure package – drinking water & wastewater.

## House:

- **Drinking Water:** The “Assistance, Quality and Affordability (AQUA) Act” (H.R. 3291) would authorize \$53 billion over 10 years for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
  - Passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23
- **Stormwater & Wastewater:** The “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act” (H.R. 1915) would authorize \$40 billion through FY 2026 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund
  - Passed the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on June 10

## Senate:

- “Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act” (S. 914), which passed Senate 89-2 in April, includes both drinking water and wastewater provisions.
  - Would reauthorize more than \$35 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

# Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- The current surface transportation authorization bill, the FAST Act, expires on September 30, 2021. Both House and Senate leadership want to pass a bill this year.
- Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee oversees transportation authorization in House. Three committees oversee authorization in the Senate:
  - Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee – Highways
  - Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation – Safety/Goods Movement/Rail
  - Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs – Transit
- On May 26, the Senate EPW Committee passed the five year Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 unanimously with bipartisan support.
- On June 16, the Senate Commerce Committee voted 25-3 to pass the Surface Transportation Investment Act.
  - Senate Banking is still drafting the transit title.
- On June 10, the House T&I Committee passed the INVEST Act by a vote of 38-26. Only two Republicans voted for the bill. A House floor vote on the bill is scheduled this week.

# Surface Transportation Reauthorization: House Transportation and Infrastructure – INVEST Act

- Authorizes \$547 billion over five years for highways, transit, rail and safety programs – 38% increase over current funding.
- First transportation authorization bill to include earmarks in 16 years. The City of Seattle secured three Member Designated projects:
  - **\$2.34 million:** East Marginal Way Corridor Improvements
  - **\$1.8 million:** Georgetown to South Park Connection
  - **\$750,000:** MLK Jr. Way S Safety and Accessibility Improvements Project

# Surface Transportation Reauthorization: House Transportation and Infrastructure – INVEST Act

- INVEST Act highlights include:
  - \$4 billion for EV charging infrastructure
  - \$8.3 billion for new carbon pollution programs
  - \$6.25 billion for new pre-disaster mitigation and resiliency formula programs
  - Targets investments to areas of persistent poverty, rural communities, and other disadvantaged areas
  - Creates a reduced-fare pilot program to improve access for low-income transit riders
  - Streamlines the Capital Investment Grant program and includes incentives for projects that preserve or encourage higher density affordable housing
  - Provides funding for corridor planning and development of high-speed rail projects, reducing traffic congestion and shortening travel times
  - Creates a \$12 billion Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) program for large highway, transit, and passenger and freight rail projects
  - Establishes a \$500 million Gridlock Reduction Grant program for large metropolitan areas
  - Provides \$3 billion for a reconnecting neighborhoods discretionary grant program to remediate economically-disadvantaged and underserved communities

# Surface Transportation Reauthorization – Senate EPW

- The “Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act” (S. 1931) authorizes \$304 billion for highway programs, a 22% increase over current funding. Bill highlights include:
  - Establishes a \$3.265 billion new competitive bridge grant program
  - Creates a \$2.5 billion electric vehicle (EV) grant program
  - Increases funding for the existing INFRA freight and goods movement grant program
  - Establishes a \$250 million competitive grant program to reduce idling and emissions at port facilities
  - Creates a \$6.4 billion carbon reduction formula program to reduce transportation emissions
  - Establishes a \$250 million congestion relief competitive grant program for projects in the largest, most congested urbanized areas
  - Creates a \$1.4 billion formula and competitive grant program for resiliency improvement, community resilience and evacuation route grants, and at-risk coastal infrastructure
  - Establishes a \$500 million community connectivity pilot grant program to study the feasibility and impacts of removing or mitigating existing transportation facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development and to construct projects to remove or mitigate these barriers



# Surface Transportation Reauthorization – Senate Commerce

- The “Surface Transportation Investment Act” (S. 2016) authorizes \$78 billion over five years for rail, freight, and safety programs.
- Bill highlights include:
  - Establish a \$10 billion National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program to provide grants to projects that generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits
  - Authorize \$1.5 billion a year for the current RAISE/BUILD grant program called the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program
  - Require the DOT Secretary to establish a program to develop intercity passenger rail corridors
  - Create a \$1 billion Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program for MPOs and local governments to develop and implement carry out comprehensive Vision Zero safety plans
  - Would create a 25-member electric vehicle (EV) working group that would offer guidance for the development and deployment of electric vehicles

# Fiscal 2022 Appropriations Underway

- House Appropriators have started the markup process for the 12 annual spending bills, with plans to move them all out of committee by July 16 with House floor action expected in July.
- In the House, members are requesting Community Project Funding for:
  - \$766,000 Health One Expansion (Smith)
  - \$400,000 Renewable Energy Home Heating Conversions (Jayapal)
- On the Senate side, Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has said he hopes to begin markups in July.
- Even though the House is expected to pass all 12 of the funding bills well before the September 30 end of the fiscal year, many lawmakers assume a CR will be needed.

# Immigration Policy Update

- Congressional Democrats will continue to work to pass a legislative solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients
  - Possibly through the “**U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021**,” introduced in February by Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
  - If DACA is struck down in court, it could put even more pressure on Congress to take up legislation.
- Senate Democrats are working to determine whether immigration reform provisions could be included as part of a larger reconciliation package.

# Immigration Policy Update, cont.

- Pressure is on the Senate to pass two immigration bills that passed the House with bipartisan support earlier this year:
  - **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)**: This measure would give DACA recipients and people with Temporary Protected Status a path to a green card and US citizenship. The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the legislation on June 15.
  - **Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 (H.R. 1603)**: This measure would give undocumented agricultural workers a path to a green card and US citizenship.
- The “**Bipartisan Border Solutions Act**” (S. 1358 / H.R. 2839) is also expected to have an impact on the congressional immigration policy agenda.
  - Would invest over \$10 billion to establish regional processing centers, to improve the asylum and credible fear processes, to require immigration court docketing priorities during migration influx events, and to improve the capability of the DHS to manage migration flows.



