



## Monthly Legislative Report – April 2022

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### April Advocacy Meetings

**Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)** – We met with Congressman Lowenthal and his staff this month to discuss FY23 appropriations and Community Project Funding (CPF) requests. Through the CPF process, we submitted requests to fund zero emission bus replacements, a connected bus pilot, and the Santa Ana-Garden Grove rails to trails projects for FY23. We followed-up with the office several times regarding this request.

**Congressman Mike Levin (D-CA)** – We met with Congressman Levin and his staff this month to discuss our CPF requests to fund rail infrastructure protection on the South Coast, and improvements for SR-74. We provided supplemental information for the requests and worked closely with staff to ensure that all necessary information was provided ahead of the Committee deadlines.

**Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA)** – We met with Congresswoman Sanchez and her staff this month to submit requests for Community Project Funding. We submitted a request to fund the OC Loop. We have been in frequent contact with her staff with her staff since submission to answer questions about the project and provide supplemental information.

**Congressman Lou Correa (D-CA)** – We met with Congressman Correa and his staff multiple times this month to discuss our requests to fund zero emission bus replacements, a connected bus pilot at Harbor Blvd, the Rails to Trails project at Santa Ana-Garden Grove, and improvements to SR-91 at Lakeview. We worked closely senior staff to provide supplemental information on the Garden Grove – Santa Ana Rails to Trails project.

**Congresswoman Young Kim (R-CA)** – We worked very closely with Congresswoman Kim's senior staff month to discuss our requests to fund zero emission buses, new security gates at the Irvine bus base, the OC Loop, and improvements to SR-91 at Lakeview. We provided supplemental information required for submission to the Committee on the OC Loop project and the SR-91 project, to include budget breakdowns. In addition to the CPF request, we also worked with Rep. Kim office on a submitting a bi-partisan support letter with Rep. Correa for OCTA's RAISE Grant application.

**Congresswoman Katie Porter (D-CA)** – We met with Congresswoman Porter and her staff this month to discuss FY23 appropriations and the process. We discussed OCTA projects we submitted to other Members of the delegation.

**Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-CA)** – We met with Congressman Aguilar and this staff multiple times this month to discuss FY23 appropriations. We discussed the timeline for submission deadlines, Committee requirements for requests, and the timeline approved project announcements. We also discussed the process and timeline for FY22 CPF funds that were enacted in the March omnibus, and when that funding will become available to recipients.

**Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)** – We met with Senator Feinstein’s staff multiple times this month to discuss the FY23 CPF process and to provide supplemental information. We also discussed Senate committee deadlines and the timeline for final submissions.

**Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)** – We met with Senator Padilla and his staff multiple times this month to discuss the FY23 CPF process, the eight projects we submitted for consideration, and the timeline for final consideration by the committee.

**House Appropriations: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development** – We met with senior staff on the THUD appropriations Subcommittee this month to discuss guidance for the FY23 CPF process. We also followed-up on our discussions regarding enacted CPF funds in the FY22 omnibus, and how that funding will be disbursed.

**House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** – We met with senior Majority and Minority committee staff multiple times this month to discuss the IIJA implementation and opportunities to provide input as the Administration prepares to issue new notice of funding opportunities.

**Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** – PPDC met with the Senator and her staff. The Senator mentioned at the event that she is working with a bipartisan group of Senators on a potential climate change and energy bill. The potential legislation could revive and amend a key provision of the Build Back Better proposal, while also allowing Republicans to explore ways to open federal land for natural gas drilling and expand investment in nuclear energy. While this is still in the discussion phase, Sen. Murkowski is open to moving such legislation through the Senate in a similar fashion to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that passed last fall.

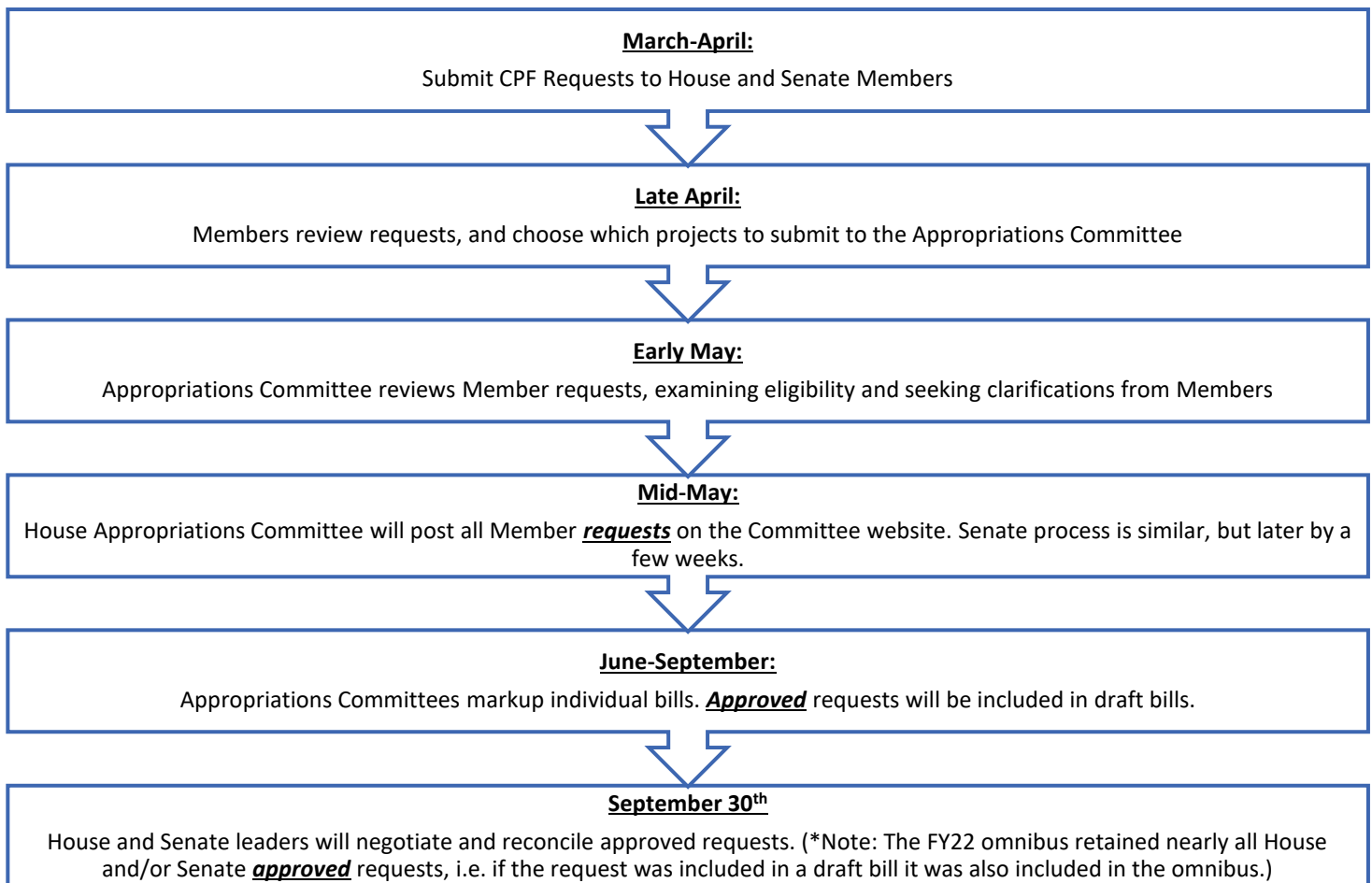
### **Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations**

Leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees met in late April to discuss the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) appropriations process. Discussions focused on the discretionary spending cap for FY23, including top level spending limits for defense and non-defense discretionary spending. Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX), Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-

AL) are hoping to reach a topline agreement in order to provide sufficient time to pass at least some of the twelve annual appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The House Appropriations Committee is still tentatively planning to begin marking up their proposed appropriations bills in mid-to-late June, with a plan for floor votes in July, and the Senate hopefully moving in a somewhat similar timeline (albeit likely at least a few weeks behind). The House Appropriations Committee has closed the submission portal for the Community Project Funding process. It should be noted that a Member submission does not guarantee that the project will be funded. The House Appropriations Committee will still need to approve the request. After that, the request will need to be retained in the bill during conference negotiations with the Senate.

- The FY23 guidance for the House CPF process can be found [here](#).
- Member requests submitted to the committee for consideration will be posted [here](#) in the coming weeks.

A basic timeline for the process is below. However, the completion of the process will likely take longer than expected due to the upcoming midterm elections:



### **Federal Mask Requirement Lifted for Public Transportation**

On April 18<sup>th</sup> due to a court order the CDC's requirement for masks on public transport is no longer in effect. The TSA from April 19<sup>th</sup> will not enforce their security mask directives as well. For more information on the CDC Order and TSA's Security order [click here](#) and [here](#).

### **California Senators Announce Support to Rural Communities**

On April 18<sup>th</sup> Senators Feinstein and Padilla announced California will receive \$29.9 million through the Secure Schools program by the Forest Service. With funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. According to the Senators these funds will assist with forest conditions and support jobs in rural communities. It would create advisory committees and improve road access for children to get to school safely. For more information click [here](#).

### **New DOT Guidance on \$6.4 Billion to Reduce Carbon Emissions**

On Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Transportation announced guidance on a new program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA) called the "*Carbon Reduction Program*" (CRP). This guidance provides information on funding, eligible activities, and requirements of the CRP. This program will allocate funds to that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from on-road highway sources. This includes infrastructure to support the electrification of freight vehicles or personal cars, Bus Rapid Transit corridors, micro-mobility, and biking. Under the CRP, states must also develop carbon reduction strategies in consultation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations to identify projects and strategies tailored to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in their states, although states and localities may begin using the CRP funds even before plans are developed and reviewed.

Guidance can be found [here](#).

Fact Sheet can be found [here](#).

5-Year total apportionments can be found [here](#).

### **FTA Announces Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimator**

The FTA has released a greenhouse gas emissions estimator tool that generates estimates of lifecycle energy use in the construction, operation, and maintenance phases of a transit project. The new version of the estimator includes renewable energy as an electricity source for estimates. This will also include bus electrification savings from low or zero emissions transit buses. For more information click [here](#).

## **Cybersecurity Resources for Transit Agencies**

The FTA has published a cybersecurity resources page that highlights FTA recommendation during ransomware attacks and other cyber threats. The page includes cybersecurity training, preparedness, and incident reporting, and four fundings opportunities. To view the page, click [here](#).

## **House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Approves Bill to Provide Grants for Inspecting Infrastructure Using Drones**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved H.R. Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grant Act (DIIG Act) in a full committee markup. The bill would invest \$200 million in a drone infrastructure inspection grant program and a drone operator and maintenance workforce training grant program. The eligible entities for the grants would be States, units of local government, tribes, or metropolitan planning organizations. The full bill can be found [here](#), along with a video of the markup.

## **White House Issues “Stewardship” Guidance for BIL/IIJA Funds**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the White House released a memo to all federal agencies regarding the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA), directing federal agencies coordination and cooperation. The memo establishes requirements for the creation of agency lead coordinators, agency equity teams, and risk management. The full memo can be found [here](#).

## **Congressional Hearings**

### **House Transportation & Infrastructure**

- Full committee hearing on “**NTSB reauthorization.**”
  - The full April 6<sup>th</sup> hearing and witness list can be viewed [here](#).
- Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on “**Workforce Development and Job Creation in Surface Transportation Construction.**”
  - The full April 27<sup>th</sup> hearing and witness list can be viewed [here](#).

### **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing**

- Hearing on the “**Department of Transportation’s FY 2023 budget request.**”
- The full April 28<sup>th</sup> hearing and Secretary Buttigieg’s testimony can be viewed [here](#)

### **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**

- Hearing on “**Gasoline Prices and Price Gouging**”
  - The full April 6<sup>th</sup> hearing and witness list can be viewed [here](#)