



<b>TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM</b>
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TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Assistant City Manager

DATE: August 25, 2021

RE: **Reports of Federal Lobbyist**

Attached for City Council review are copies of the August 24 and August 31, 2021 reports of the City's federal lobbyist, Steve Silver. Should Councilmembers have questions and/or concerns regarding Mr. Silver's reports, staff can attempt to respond accordingly.

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**Status Report for the City of Ketchikan**

**August 24, 2021**

This last month the Senate has finally passed major legislation which may help provide payment to complete the City projects in the next fiscal year beginning in September 2021. The Congress is still in a major waiting game while the Biden Administration, House and Senate decide how to move forward on the Senate passed \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. The House convened on August 23 and 24 to begin work on a \$3.5 trillion "Human" Infrastructure Bill, which President Biden also seems to support. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is demanding that the \$1 trillion Senate Bill can only pass in tandem with the House \$3.5 trillion bill.

However ten "moderate" Democrat House members successfully insisted that the two bills, Bipartisan Infrastructure and Human Infrastructure be separated. That was a surprise and the ultimate outcome of each bill remains to be seen. Timing and House passage will wait until September when Congress reconvenes.

In the meantime, Sen. Murkowski's staff asked for information on both Schoenbar Culvert Rehabilitation and the Tongass Sewer Force Main Rehabilitation projects. If the system works the City could obtain funding this year for that money. We are now waiting until September in hopes that this funding actually is appropriated. The bill authorizes millions of dollars for port, road, water and sewer projects. But more to come on that later in this calendar year. So, for the moment, we must wait along with the rest of the country for the next steps.

Timing on this Congressional decision on how to go forward with both bills and the FY 2022 Appropriations process is still uncertain and probably will not be decided until later in the summer or even in the fall.

But at least there is a chance Congress and the Biden Administration will make some progress later in the month after the House reconvenes on August 23.

This concludes my status report. I will provide more information on meetings and I will report on next steps as soon as that information becomes available.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Status Report for the City of Ketchikan**

**August 31, 2021**

This is a short update to my status report of August 24. As I said in that report ten “moderate” Democrat House members successfully insisted that the two bills, Bipartisan Infrastructure and Human Infrastructure be separated. That was a surprise and the ultimate outcome of each bill remains to be seen. Timing and House passage will wait until September when Congress reconvenes. As part of this agreement House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has apparently committed that the House pass the “bipartisan bill” by September 27 once the House returns after Labor Day.

Timing on this Congressional decision on how to go forward with both bills and the FY 2022 Appropriations process is still uncertain but this new agreement in the House for September 27 passage of the bipartisan bill will make the 3 weeks from Labor Day to September 27 very hectic. But this gives Congress a firm deadline on which to act. How this will affect our projects in the ongoing FY 2022 Appropriations process is also uncertain, at least for now.

This concludes my updated status report. I will provide more information on all of these issues and I will report on next steps as soon as that information becomes available.

Respectfully Submitted,

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