



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: December 2, 2021

RE: **Report of Federal Lobbyist**

Attached for City Council review is a copy of the November 29, 2021 report of the City's federal lobbyist, Steve Silver. Should Councilmembers have questions and/or concerns regarding Mr. Silver's report, staff can attempt to respond accordingly.

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Status Report for the City of Ketchikan
November 29, 2021
By Steve Silver

This status report will supplement my status report dated 11.15.21, also attached. As previously reported, in a surprise move, the House of Representatives separated its action on the two big bills which were previously linked politically from each other and passed the Senate approved "Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill." That bill went directly to the President and was signed into law on November 15.

The House of Representatives also approved the "Build Back Better" Bill on November 19 by a vote of 220 – 213. The vote was a completely a party line vote with all Republicans including Congressman Young voting against that bill.

NEXT STEPS

The big question now is can the House and the Senate agree on a revised "Build Back Better Bill" (BBB) and when? For the moment it seems that Congress has pushed its key decision date to December 3rd or later while key members of the House and Senate negotiate over the BBB bill. Dec. 3 is still the key date for Congress to act on the BBB bill or to delay that vote until later in December or even next year.

Congress is still on a path to adjourn on December 3 or later. At that point, Congress will consider whether to do a number of things:

1. Extend the December 3rd deadline further into December or even into early January.
2. Pass the twelve Appropriations bill which include (hopefully) funding for the Schoenbar project.
3. Pass a Continuing Resolution which will delay funding for the Schoenbar project.

As I stated in my interim status report on November 15, things remain uncertain and Congress must decide what it will do next. I continue to work with the Alaska Delegation to assure passage of funding for the City's requests.

All three members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill. Congressman Don Young was one of the 13 Republican House members to vote in favor of that bill to assure the bill's passage in the House.

For Ketchikan, the Infrastructure bill may contain the remaining funding needed for the City project requests including Schoenbar, the Force Main project and other key City projects. It is critical that the City continue to work closely with the State DOT to finalize these projects

Details on how the funding will be distributed are still being developed. But the State of Alaska will receive much of this funding and will provide funding for many Alaska projects.

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The bill includes the following Alaska specific provisions:

\$3.5 billion for Alaska federal highway funding
\$1.0 billion for Alaska ferry services to rural Alaskan communities
\$250 million for remote and subsistence harbor construction of which Alaska can be a primary beneficiary.
\$73 million for new ferry construction for Alaska
\$75 million for the Denali Commission
AMHS will be eligible for future federal Highway aid funds for operation and repair.

The BBB bill also includes the following basic provisions. Details of the bill include:

\$110 billion for roads and bridges.
\$65 billion for broadband investments
\$55 billion for water systems and infrastructure
\$39 billion for public transit
\$25 billion for airports
\$21 billion for environmental remediation projects
\$17 billion for ports and waterways
\$11 billion for road safety
\$73 billion for electric grid and power infrastructure
\$66 billion for passenger and freight rail
\$50 billion for Western water storage
\$15 billion for electric vehicles

This is the basic summary of the bill's provisions. I will provide more information as the details of the bill are provided.

While I can provide no guarantees, as described above, I am very hopeful that funding for the City's projects and others will be included in the final budget when the Congress finally passes that budget later this year.

Hopefully, I will be able to report more information soon.

This concludes my monthly 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,

Steve Silver
Robertson, Monagle, and Eastaugh