March 17, 2017

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCES FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

Early yesterday the Trump Administration introduced its federal Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Titled “America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again”, the $1.1 trillion budget calls for a $54 billion increase in military spending while substantially cutting many domestic programs. Other Departments receiving increases are Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The President’s federal FY 2018 budget targets the Environmental Protection Agency with a 31% budget cut while eliminating 20% of its workforce. Approximately 50 EPA programs will be eliminated, including grants to fight air pollution, various energy saving programs, the office of environmental justice and funding for international climate-change (the Clean Power Program). The President’s budget guidance for EPA does prioritize funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF’s and funding for the WIFIA program. Please note the following excerpt provided to us by Key Advocates:

• Provides robust funding for critical drinking and wastewater infrastructure. These funding levels further the President’s ongoing commitment to infrastructure repair and replacement and would allow States, municipalities, and private entities to continue to advance high priority infrastructure investments that protect human health. The Budget includes $2.3 billion for the State Revolving Funds, a $4 million increase over the 2017 annualized CR level. The Budget also provides $20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, equal to the funding provided in the 2017 annualized CR. This credit subsidy could potentially support $1 billion in direct Federal loans.

At this time, the federal FY 2018 budget process will be contentious and the Coalition will be intensely active in protecting all the funding sources for our industry.

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS PREPARE BILLS IN ANTICIPATION OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATIONS $1 TRILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

In preparation of the Trump Administration’s $1 trillion infrastructure proposal that is anticipated to be addressed prior to Congress’s summer recess this August, Coalition representatives have been working with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), on a water infrastructure bill. Considered a marker bill to establish minority party priorities, the bill contains a number of Coalition priorities, in bold below.
• Authorizes $20 billion in Federal grants over five years to capitalize Clean Water State Revolving Funds (“Clean Water SRFs”). These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater infrastructure.
  • Authorizes $1.5 billion over five years for grants for State water pollution control agencies to implement State water pollution control programs.
  • Provides $600 million over five years for Clean Water pilot programs (including Federal technical assistance and/or grants) for watershed-based or system-wide efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best management practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase the resiliency of treatment works to natural or man-made disasters.
  • Authorizes technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal communities to assist them in gaining access to financing wastewater infrastructure.
  • Includes economic incentives to encourage the adoption of energy- and water-efficient technologies and practices to maximize the potential for efficient water use, reuse, and conservation, and energy conservation, and realize the potential corresponding cost-savings for water treatment.

Title II – Grants

• Authorizes $2.5 billion over five years for grants to address combined and sanitary sewer overflows and recapture and reuse of municipal stormwater under section 221 of the Clean Water Act.
• Authorizes $375 million in grants over five years for alternative water source projects under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, including projects that reuse wastewater and stormwater to augment the existing sources of water.

In addition to Congressman DeFazio’s bill, Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congressman John Duncan (R-TN) will be introducing a voluntary fee/labeling trust fund bill. The measure is similar to the fee/labeling bill that moved through the Senate last year but was dropped during the Conference deliberation on the WRDA reauthorization bill. This year’s legislation differs from last year’s bill in that the revenue is allocated 50% for the Clean Water SRF and 50% for the Drinking Water SRF. The prior year’s measure funded the Clean Water SRF at 85% and the Drinking Water SRF at 15%. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) has agreed to sponsor the bill in the Senate. Coalition representatives will continue to work with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee representatives on the bills.

COALITION WASHINGTON, D.C. FLY-IN AND RECEPTION IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 16, 2017

Please note the arrangements for the Coalition’s Washington, D.C. events scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017 though Thursday, May 18, 2017. Below are the details concerning the Coalition’s meetings:

• Tuesday, May 16, 2017
  Coalition Working Meeting
  Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
  8:00am – 9:30am
  400 New Jersey Avenue, NW
  Room to be determined

  Legislative Update
  9:30am – 12:00noon
  Room to be determined
  CWCC Executive Directors Meeting
• Wednesday, May 17, 2017
  Open Day
  ARTBA Meetings

• Thursday, May 18, 2017
  Coalition Reception  12:00 noon
  Building TBA       Room TBA

To reserve your room at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, telephone 1 888-421-1442 and mention the ARTBA TCC Fly-In Program to obtain the group rate of $329.00 per night. Online Hotel Reservations: https://aws.passkey.com/go/ARTBAFIP2017. Please call by April 17, 2017 to receive the group rate.
SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MAY 16

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Bridge Policy & Promotion Council
• Discuss the Council’s program of work and the association's annual “Bridge Conditions Report.”

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Public-Private Partnerships Division
• Gather intelligence on key transportation P3 projects and opportunities around the country, whether you are new to the P3 market or a veteran practitioner.

12:30-3:00 p.m.
Contractors Division Roundtable with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
• Learn more about the latest federal policy developments that will affect how contractors build projects, and provide your feedback to key FHWA officials.

12:00-2:00 p.m.
Executive Committee*
*Executive Committee members only

2:00-3:00 p.m.
Industry Leader Development Council
• Focus will be on 2017 action items, including planning for ARTBA's four regional meetings and the annual Dr. J. Don Brock TransOvation® Workshop.

2:00-3:30 p.m.
Transportation Development Foundation Trustees*
*Trustees only

3:30-4:00 p.m.
Overview and Q&A: New Safety Certification for Transportation Project Professionals™ Program
• Learn more about this ground-breaking certification and have your questions answered.

3:30-4:45 p.m.
Joint Planning & Design, and Transportation Officials Divisions

3:30-5:00 p.m.
Nominating Committee*
*Nominating Committee members only

4:30-5:45 p.m.
Environmental Committee Meeting with Federal Agency Officials

TUESDAY, MAY 16 continued

5:00-6:00 p.m.
Women Leaders Council
• Features interactive conversation on recruitment and retention in the industry, and a panel session on best practices, followed by a discussion with all attendees.

Council of State Executives*
*ARTBA chapter executives, staff and invited guests only.

6:15-8:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

7:30-9:00 a.m.
Contractors Division
• Features the semi-annual business meeting of ARTBA's largest membership division, and includes presentations and discussion of key issues at the federal and state levels.

8:30-9:30 a.m.
Materials & Services Division

9:30-9:45 a.m.
Networking Break

9:45-11:00 a.m.
General Session
• Congressional Staff Panel
• Legislative Session & Regulatory Report
• Transportation Construction Market Report
• New Infrastructure Initiatives

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Board of Directors

1:00-2:30 p.m.
ARTBA Foundation Awards Luncheon
• Presentation of the “ARTBA Award” and “Helping Hand” Awards

2:30-5:00 p.m.
TCC Legislative Session

6:00-7:30 p.m.
TCC Capitol Hill Reception

THURSDAY, MAY 18

7:00-8:00 a.m.
TCC Breakfast

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
TCC Meetings with Members of Congress

Meetings are open to all ARTBA members unless otherwise indicated in the program.
Make your room reservations directly with the Hyatt Regency Washington Hotel by calling 1.888.421.1442.

**Ask for the ARTBA Federal Issues Program rate of $329 per night, which is guaranteed through April 17.**

Hyatt Regency Washington
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Register at [www.artbafrfedissues.org](http://www.artbafrfedissues.org).

**REGISTRATION FEES**

Member: $775
Non-Member: $875

*Your registration fee also includes entry into the TCC Fly-in.*