



July 30, 2021

## SENATE VOTES TO OPEN DEBATE ON BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

This week the US Senate moved to open debate on a nearly \$1 trillion hard infrastructure package. The affirmative vote included Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and 16 other Republicans. This represents a major breakthrough after weeks of negotiations between the Biden Administration and senators in both parties. Last night's action clears the path for a final vote *in the Senate* on the package in the coming days.

### What's Included:

The funding numbers below are across a 5-year baseline. Fine details are still being worked out, but primary to the interests of CWCC members, the Senate-passed package is expected to include the 2021 Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act which calls for **\$35 billion in new investment in water infrastructure primarily through the SRF programs**. Digging into what this means for CW and DW SRF levels, these numbers represent a doubling of funding compared to recent funding allocations. In addition, separate program funding for lead remediation and funding to address PFAS contamination is included. In addition to the water infrastructure funding, the package includes;

- **\$110 billion** in new funds for roads, bridges and major projects (which represents an additional \$55B to the STRA 5-year reauthorization, and is about \$550B over current baseline)
- **\$73 billion** for clean energy;
- **\$66 billion** for passenger and freight rail to address deferred maintenance, enhance existing corridors, and build new lines in high-potential locations;
- **\$65 billion** for broadband;
- **\$50 billion** to help states and cities prepare for droughts, wildfires, and flooding;
- **\$39 billion** new investment for public transit (on top of 5-year reauthorization);
- **\$25 billion** for airports;
- **\$21 billion** for environmental remediation;
- **\$17 billion** for ports and waterways;
- **\$11 billion** for transportation safety programs;and
- **\$3.5 billion** for Superfund Remediation.

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[cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org](http://cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org) | P.O. Box 728 | Allenwood, NJ 08720 | Office: (732) 292-4300 | Fax: (732) 292-4310

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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\* Steering Committee Member



## How It's Funded:

Republican negotiators were able to secure fundamental changes to funding sources for the bill. Originally, the Administration proposed increased revenues from tightening tax loopholes as a major payfor. Instead, both parties agreed to new sources including:

- Repurposes \$205 billion from previous pandemic aid legislation;
- Recoups \$53 billion from states returning expanded unemployment benefit funding;
- Saves \$49 billion by delaying a Medicare Part D rebate rule enacted under President Trump;
- Raises nearly \$30 billion by applying tax information reporting requirements to cryptocurrency;
- \$89 billion from future spectrum and c-band auctions;
- \$13 billion from reinstating Superfund fees; and
- \$6 billion in sales from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

## What's Next:

The deal still faces several obstacles to becoming law. Legislative text is still being written and the measure will need to survive debate, amendments, and a final vote.

During negotiations, President Biden and Democratic leaders were forced to agree to concessions, including less new money for public transit, clean energy, electric vehicle charging stations, and the elimination of the \$20 billion national infrastructure bank. These reductions have rankled members in both chambers, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

However, the procedural vote is still a major step forward in advancing a mega-infrastructure bill that has been teased at for several years. If enacted, these numbers are transformative and would keep our industry working for years to come.

Despite the challenges, we remain optimistic that Congress will pass an infrastructure package in some form this year. We ask that you stay actively engaged with your federal delegation to protect and promote the CWCC's priorities. We'll keep you updated as details emerge and the process unfolds.

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## UTCA of NJ SCORES LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR WATER WORK

UTCA of NJ has been working for several years to update the laws, standards, and regulatory environment governing our water infrastructure. We have recently seen some important items from our **Water Infrastructure Investment Program** come to fruition that may serve as useful for CWCC members to consider applying to their own jurisdictions. By pushing for more funding **and** better water policy, we are hoping to create a steady stream of projects in communities across the state. We have provided bill numbers for each piece of legislation so you can look up the details at <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> if you are interested. We are sharing this with you in the event it may be helpful in your individual jurisdictions.

**Lead Service Line Replacement** – (S3398/A5343) UTCA of NJ was on hand last week as Governor Murphy signed into law legislation that would require all drinking water systems to inventory lead service lines and replace them within 10 years. The Governor highlighted the public health crisis facing many New Jersey communities and cited this legislation, as well as the \$60m water infrastructure line item that UTCA of NJ championed, as an historic step toward ensuring every resident has access to clean drinking water. UTCA CEO Bob Briant, Jr.'s **comments** were also **highlighted** in the press.

**Drinking Water System Asset Management** – (S647/A4825) UTCA of NJ has been working on legislation that would increase asset management planning requirements for drinking water systems and enable DEP to develop a penalty system for non-compliance. The measure will create a three-year capital plan for every drinking water system in the state, as well as funding plans to ensure those capital projects advance. That means more work with greater predictability for contractors. We are pleased to report that the bill has been passed by the legislature, and at the time of this writing, is expected to be signed into law.

**Statewide Water Infrastructure Capital Plan** – (S4011) UTCA worked with NJ Senate leadership to develop this legislation, which would require DEP to prepare a Statewide Water Infrastructure Investment Plan every five years, and the I-Bank to present an annual water capital plan to the legislature. This legislation represents the advancement of a major priority called for in the UTCA Water Infrastructure Investment Program. If passed, the measure will increase transparency and predictability for water work and mirrors the type of capital planning we see on the transportation side of our industry.

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## CWCC BUSINESS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

Plans are underway and will be shared shortly to hold a mostly *VIRTUAL* CWCC Business Meeting concurrent with the Utility Expo between **September 28-29, 2021 in Louisville, Kentucky**. This event is operated in partnership with and held concurrently with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers' national event, The Utility Expo (formally known as ICUEE): <https://www.theutilityexpo.com/>

This is a challenging year and time of year for many of us to travel. Partnering with Planet Underground, the CWCC and its members have been presented with an opportunity to coordinate with them to have a CWCC Business meeting and potential to generate revenue for the Coalition and its members. The potential revenue would consist of a 20% commission for the acquisition of sponsorships for the event specifically targeting utility contractors, with a majority of the commission going to your association.

Those interested in attending / sponsoring this event please contact Mike Parilac with Planet Underground ([mike@planetunderground.tv](mailto:mike@planetunderground.tv)) directly. An updated flyer is attached to this report.

### *Event Description*

*The Planet Underground aspects of the Expo branded "The Jobsite"* represents the first-ever opportunity for service-based companies to directly participate in The Utility Expo. Consisting of 80,000 square feet of outdoor space dedicated to creating an actual construction site, this event is used for promotion of safe work and damage prevention practices through peer-to-peer education. It is a networking event where food and refreshments can be enjoyed in a casual, nontraditional setting.

*The Jobsite* is a construction site. Sponsoring firms must have operating personnel in attendance. In most all cases, the equipment and supplies will be provided by companies exhibiting at The Utility Expo. *The Jobsite* is the only location within the 30-acre indoor and outdoor event site to have complete integration of sponsor activities. With its own food and refreshment centers, *The Jobsite* is a unique event allowing sponsoring organizations to network with their customers, potential customers, and suppliers in relaxed environment.

## KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to July 30, 2021.

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