



June 24, 2021 – Interim Update – White House Infrastructure Deal

At an event at the White House this afternoon, President Biden announced that he has reached an agreement on a large infrastructure package with a bi-partisan group of Senators (see his attached remarks and the 2-page “framework” of the deal). Details of what has been agreed to are still vague and how the deal will be turned into legislation and passed by Congress and on what timeline are still unclear, but this is a huge step forward.

There are now several different infrastructure efforts currently proceeding on separate tracks that will presumably converge at some point.

- Both the House and Senate continue to make progress on their respective multi-year FAST Act surface transportation reauthorization bills (highways/transit/rail). The FAST Act expires on September 30. The House still plans to bring its INVEST Act surface transportation reauthorization bill to the floor next week. The WSP June 23 Update has more details.
- There is this new “framework” which the White House has agreed to which includes funding for surface transportation programs as well as airports, ports, and EVs, in addition to funding for broadband, power, water and resiliency.
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer want to proceed simultaneously with a controversial budget reconciliation bill into order to get a separate bill through the Senate without requiring 60 votes which would include a number of additional provisions which were previously included in Biden’s American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan, but are not part of the bi-partisan “framework”.

The funding levels for the various infrastructure programs in the “framework” are essentially the same as those released by the group earlier this week (see attached), however, there are a number of changes in the proposed funding/financing revenue sources. Earlier proposals to pay for the infrastructure plan had included indexing the federal gas tax and a surcharge on EVs. Those options have been dropped. Back on the table are a number of somewhat dubious revenue sources such as extending expiring custom fees, sales from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and reducing the IRS tax collection gap.

There are still many potential pitfalls ahead, but this is significant progress and there is optimism that a broad infrastructure bill may actually pass this summer.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Attachments:

- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework](#) [PDF]
- [Press Release: President Biden Announces Support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework](#) [PDF]