



**Memo to Snohomish County Council**

**Fr: Dale Learn**

**Re: Federal Legislative Update**

**March 18, 2022**

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**Federal Appropriations, FY23:**

Learning the lessons of FY22, who won and what our Members focused on, will be helpful for the CDS (earmark) process in FY23. Again, we are still asking questions and trying to analyze the bill, but the train on the FY23 requests will move fast. Senator Murray is the only of our Members to have a form out for these requests, as the others are waiting for the Appropriations committees to release their project guidance for amounts and eligibility criteria.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yQ08CVqFVEaBVDu8JMTbfpGtuvTE2KBHnCNTU6CApPIUMVILQ1VMMzBKMfK4WDRTUVkwV0YxNzNFUS4u>

1. As Sen. Murray's form states: "The requirements, content, and deadlines associated with this form may change based upon further guidance from the Senate Appropriations Committee." Although these questions are the basics. We don't expect anything elaborate.
2. Important questions - #9 Amount of Funding Sought (getting a feel for what is appropriate for the type of project is key, but last year sometimes what we were told wasn't what the Committee actually funded. First year in 2021, so perhaps just feeling it out); #11 Project Goals and Results & #12 Project Justification (a tight narrative is important that hits on good themes – jobs, equity, social justice, community, environmental, etc.); #14 Additional Sources of Funding (matching funds are important in many programs, and they have to be pretty solid); and #15 Murray Staff (interaction with her local regional staff is critical).
3. At least two letters of support from third parties within the community which states the benefit of the project. More are better, but the "right ones" are the most important.

We are already working on completing this form based on our agreed upon list of projects and working on letters of support. However, we anticipate critical details and updates to be released from both the House and Senate Committees in the coming weeks, and we will adapt accordingly.

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### **WA Air National Guard Land Transfer**

The airport team led by Arif Ghouse and Terry Ryan along with us at GTH had a very productive call with Lt. Colonel McKinley of the WA Air National Guard and his “Real Property” team.

It was incredibly positive to hear that the Guard is eager to move this forward and wanted the official federal land conveyance authority to be in statute as soon as possible. We will work in DC on providing the land conveyance authority in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), while Arif and Terry work on the near-term details of a short-term lease where the County gets credited any money it spends during the leasing period towards the final land transfer buyout.

The land conveyance piece in the NDAA only needs to occur by the time the land is actually transferred over. The Guard has full authority to begin the leasing process now. We can provide more details on Monday’s call and answer any questions. After many years this is moving forward with a motivated partner in the WA guard!

### **Budget and Appropriations**

At long last Congress passed and President Biden has signed the [FY2022 omnibus appropriations bill](#), that will fund the government through September 2022. We expect the President’s budget, which is just a guide to Congress, to be released very soon and at least before the end of March. A summary of the full omnibus can be found [here](#).

#### Key Takeaways:

- The legislation contains a separate amount of \$13.6 billion in humanitarian and military aid for Ukraine.
- COVID-19 relief funding was removed when agreement could not be reached on offsetting the cost with previously approved but unspent funds.
- The bill contains \$730 billion in non-defense spending and \$782 billion in defense appropriations.
- Funding is provided for 12 appropriation bills that make up the federal budget.

### **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**

With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) our “traditional” transportation projects have a good shot through the federal grant process. The Congressional offices and this Administration are very excited about it and at least saying they will focus on local, “smaller” projects. One indication is that Congressman

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Larsen has informed us that a USDOT Representative has been designated to the Pacific Northwest to deal with Member's requests under the law. As we've discussed, programs like RAISE (application due April 14<sup>th</sup>) and the new Culvert program will be ones we have a good shot with getting funding. There are others as well in several areas such as water, broadband, housing, economic development, and other subjects. Now that the FY22 budget process is behind us, the Notices of Available Funding (NOFO) for the IIJA will really begin to come out, due to many of the programs needing this year's appropriations, especially the new ones.

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