



# CAWP WEEKLY

Issue #31-21 | August 2, 2021

## Senate Moves Forward on \$1.2T Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

On July 28, the Senate agreed, [67-32](#), to begin debate on a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package. Ahead of the vote, the bipartisan group of senators announced it had resolved all major issues on the package. As a result of this initial vote, the Senate will consider the package over the coming days and, perhaps, weeks.

However, an actual legislative bill detailing what is in the package has yet-to-be released or formally introduced as of July 29. When a bill is introduced in the Senate and, if passed, the bill will head to the House of Representatives for consideration. A [57-page summary](#) of the bipartisan infrastructure package notes how it includes funding for a host of traditional, physical infrastructure. AGC [appreciates and has fought for](#) the significant levels of investment in the package and awaits actual legislative text before considering a formal association endorsement.

### Highways, Roads, and Bridges

- The package incorporates the AGC-endorsed, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act*, a **\$311 billion** bill that would reauthorize federal-aid road and bridge programs for 5 years. This bill represents a 30% increase in road funding over current levels (AGC summary [here](#)).
- The package also includes an additional **\$110 billion** of new spending on top of reauthorization for highways, roads, and bridges, including:
  - \$55.48B in additional contract authority.
  - \$55.52B in additional funding for a host of programs, such as the Bridge Investment Program, USDOT RAISE and INFRA grants, Private Activity Bonds, and more.



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## Public Transit

- The package incorporates an extension of currently authorized federal transit policy and funding levels.
- An additional **\$39.15 billion** for transit programs on top of the extension, including:
  - \$19.15B in additional contract authority
  - \$4.75B of additional funding for State of Good Repair Grants
  - \$8B of additional funding for Capital Investment Grants
  - \$7.25B for other programs

## Freight and Passenger Rail

- The package includes the Senate Commerce Committee passed *Surface Transportation Investment Act*, a **\$78 billion** reauthorization of federal freight and passenger rail programs.
- An additional **\$66 billion** in new spending on top of the reauthorization, including:
  - \$6B in additional spending for Northeast Corridor grants
  - \$36B for Federal-State Partnership Intercity Passenger Rail funding
  - \$16 in addition funding for Amtrak
  - \$5B for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement program
  - \$53B in other related spending

## Other Relevant Funding

- Ports and Waterways- **\$17.3 billion**
- Airports- **\$25 billion** in new spending for airport infrastructure, including:
  - \$20B for airside (runway, taxiway, and terminal) projects
  - \$5B for air traffic control infrastructure
- Drinking and Waste Water- **\$55 billion**
- Power Grid- **\$73 billion**
- Broadband Infrastructure- **\$65 billion**
- Resiliency- **\$46 billion**

In total, this \$1.2 trillion package includes \$550 billion in new spending, with the remainder made up of reauthorizations of current infrastructure programs. The \$550 billion in new spending is paid for through a host of sources, including repurposed COVID-relief funding, refunded and fraudulently paid unemployment benefits, and extending or reinstating a host of other governmental fees.

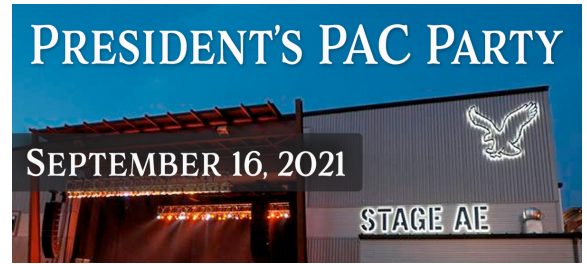
AGC is encouraged by this historic investment in our nation's infrastructure and will continue to review this proposal as more details are released.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## CAWP President's PAC Party- Registration Open!



The 2021 CAWP President's PAC Party will be a night of fun, food, drinks, prizes and MORE!

Join us on **Thursday, September 16, 2021** at *Stage AE*. All proceeds from the event will benefit the CAWP PAC.

REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIPS

## SAVE THE DATE CAWP Annual Meeting 2022 Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas – February 23 -27, 2022



**PLEASE NOTE:** *There are significant processing delays for new or updated passports. If you are considering attending the CAWP Annual Meeting, be sure to check your passport expiration date and plan accordingly!*

## Department of Labor and Industry Issues UC Fraud Guidance



Responding to skyrocketing claims of Unemployment Insurance Fraud, the PA Department of Labor and Industry this week provided employers with helpful tips for reporting fraudulent claims. When responding to a Notice of Claim Filed that you believe to be fraudulent, keep the following tips in mind:

- L&I does not need any of the person's actual employment information for identity theft situations. The fields on the response form do not need to be completed unless the system requires it (e.g.,

start date, end date, termination date).

- The “Reason for Separation” field is always required. For identity theft claims, you should enter the reason as “Still working full-time.”
- For employers using the new benefits system, a step-by-step guide is [available here](#).
- For employers not yet able to log into the new system but enrolled in SIDES, a guide is [available here](#).
- Employers who have hired a Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for unemployment matters can disregard any Notices of Application as the administrator should handle this matter.

The Department also wants to remind employers:

- Appealing the financial determination is not the appropriate way to report a fraudulent claim. As the employer, you should respond to the claim notices but **should not** file a fraud report.
- Ultimately, you will not be charged for benefits paid to fraudulent, identity theft-related claims. Once benefits are denied, your account will be credited.

The Department also noted they are implementing additional verification processes for the UC claims process. Earlier this year, L&I announced that it was [expanding a partnership](#) with ID.me, an identity verification vendor, to dissuade fraudsters targeting the UC system.

Source: [https://www.pachamber.org/media/3542/Department\\_of\\_Labor\\_and\\_Industry\\_Issues\\_210726/](https://www.pachamber.org/media/3542/Department_of_Labor_and_Industry_Issues_210726/)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 23**

[CAWP Annual Golf Outing](#)

**September 16**

[CAWP President's PAC Party](#)

[FULL CALENDAR](#)

## RECENT BULLETINS

**June 10**

CAWP Labor Bulletin 13-21  
Holiday - Independence Day  
[\(Member Account Needed\)](#)

**June 2**

CAWP Labor Bulletin 12-21  
Reminder - Operating  
Engineers Local #66 Referral  
Program [\(Member Account Needed\)](#)

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