



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

MEETING AGENDA
PPACG LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
April 24, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

In Person

PPACG Upper Conference Room – 15 S. 7th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Microsoft Teams (Video and Audio)

www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting

Meeting ID: 282 776 616 401

Passcode: rGvSm5

Dial in (Audio Only)

Phone Number: (929) 242-8427

Conference ID: 141 293 928

Meeting will be held in a hybrid format to allow in-person attendance as well as a remote option.

1. Call to Order – Commissioner Stone and/or Mayor Dixon
2. Federal update
 - A. National Association of Regional Councils (Handout only) ☒
3. Colorado Legislative Update – Dan Jablan
 - A. Review of recently introduced bills
 - B. Review of emphasis bills ☒
 - C. Review of the remaining bill tracking list (time permitting):
<https://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/6512/2023/0/>
 - D. Questions
4. Member open discussion

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to draft the annual Policy Statement on Legislative Issues for Board of Directors approval, help develop legislative bills, develop position statements on proposed bills, laws, regulatory actions and other initiatives, meet with elected representatives and lobbyists in order to communicate PPACG's position, to testify before legislative bodies, boards and commissions, and work with other similar agencies and groups in formulating legislative positions.

A quorum of Board members may be present at this meeting.

Federal transportation update provided by the National Association of Regional Councils

CONGRESS

The Senate and House are in session.

Former Pennsylvania Congressman Bud Shuster Dies at 91

Former Representative Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, a congressional power broker whose mastery of earmarked spending and highway projects in the 1990s earned him the sobriquet “King of Asphalt,” died Wednesday at age 91. Shuster, a Republican, saw transportation as a way to benefit his struggling district in the Allegheny Mountains of south-central Pennsylvania and it became his signature issue. It also tarnished his reputation. In nearly three decades in Congress, Shuster perfected the art of earmarking, expanding member-designated projects tenfold in the 1998 highway bill. Shuster's six-year, \$218 billion highway measure included \$9 billion in special projects, \$110 million of it for his own district. Shuster chaired the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from 1995 to 2001 before resigning in January 2001.

Republicans Flock To Earmarking As New Rules Take Effect

Interest in bringing home federal funding earmarks in appropriations bills is growing among House Republicans under new restrictions the GOP majority instituted for the next fiscal year. New earmark requesters include some high profile Republicans who did not request earmarks while Democrats ruled the chamber in the 117th Congress, including House Freedom Caucus members Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, Andy Harris of Maryland and Ben Cline of Virginia. Fourteen House Republicans in all who did not previously request earmarks, and 33 of the 40 freshman House Republicans, are participating in the “community project funding” process. GOP leaders instituted [new requirements](#) for members' projects to have a “federal nexus,” or purposes authorized in prior laws. They also barred earmarks for museums, memorials and “commemoratives,” or projects named for an individual or entity. Monday marked the due date for members to post their earmark requests online under the chamber's transparency rules.

House T&I Chairman Sam Graves Outlines Spring Agenda

Updates to national aviation and pipeline safety policies will dominate the upcoming schedule for the transportation panel in the U.S. House of Representatives. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) described multiple items that must be reauthorized by the committee. This includes a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, a pipeline safety reauthorization, and a [Coast Guard](#) bill. In addition, the committee will address supply chain challenges and bottlenecks,” the chairman told colleagues April 18 during a hearing to consider infrastructure-centric proposals. Graves highlighted the panel's ongoing oversight of 2021's \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law while previewing the remainder of the 2023 calendar. At the end of the year, the committee will begin working on a bipartisan Water Resources Development Act for 2024.

U.S. House Fails to Override Biden Veto of WOTUS Legislation

The U.S. House on Tuesday failed to override a veto by President Joe Biden, which means the administration's regulation stays in place expanding which waters and wetlands can be regulated under the federal Clean Water Act. The House did not clear the two-thirds mark needed to overturn Biden's veto of a resolution that would have blocked the administration's recent Waters of the U.S., or WOTUS, regulation. House members voted 227-196 to override the veto, including all but one of the Republicans present and 10 Democrats in favor. Tuesday's tally was similar to that in the [March 9 vote](#) to pass the resolution rolling back the Biden rule. If the veto override had succeeded in both the House and Senate, a Congressional Review Act [resolution](#) would have taken effect to overturn the Biden definition of WOTUS, which claimed a broader jurisdiction than former President Donald Trump's administration had sought.

Debt Ceiling: Likely GOP Demands

[Politico](#) has obtained an internal document outlining probable Republican demands to raise the debt ceiling by \$2 trillion or suspend it for one year. They report that the demands are likely to include:

- capping non-defense discretionary funding at fiscal year (FY) 2022 levels and allowing for no more than a one percent increase per fiscal year from FY 2022 on.
- rescinding remaining unspent COVID funding.
- adopting all energy provisions included in HR 1, including those that would rescind programs to address climate change.
- adopting a requirement that any major rule issued by the Administration would require congressional approval before it can be implemented; and
- establishing work requirements for Medicaid, strengthening work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and increasing work requirements for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

House Speaker McCarthy, in a speech to Wall Street on Monday, April 17, said “the House will vote on a bill to lift the debt ceiling into the next year, save taxpayers trillions of dollars, make us less dependent on China, and curb high inflation — all without touching Social Security or Medicare.”

ADMINISTRATION

[Biden-Harris Administration Announce More Than \\$1 Billion in Funding for Local Communities to Improve Roadway Safety](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has opened the process for cities, towns, counties, Tribal governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to apply directly for a total of \$1.177 billion to fund local projects that improve roadway safety. The funds are from the competitive grant program, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), which was created in President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help communities both plan and carry out projects that help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our highways, streets, and roads. Funding can be targeted toward known high-crash areas, which are easier than ever to identify thanks to an [interactive tool](#) created by DOT. Locally driven solutions can include everything from improving sidewalks and adding high-visibility crosswalks, to reconfiguring intersections. Launching and administering the SS4A grant program is a major element to DOT’s National Roadway Safety Strategy, launched in 2022 to address the high number of traffic deaths happening across the country.

[During National Work Zone Awareness Week, FHWA Underscores its Commitment to Safety for Workers and Other Vulnerable Road Users](#)

During this year’s National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 17-21) the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reaffirms its commitment to improve safety for road construction workers and other vulnerable road users outside of vehicles. President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing in America by helping States, Tribes, and local communities strengthen safety on their roadways. In a kickoff event today in Rocheport, Missouri, FHWA Executive Director Gloria Shepherd joined Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) officials in reminding drivers to keep highway workers safe as construction season ramps up and highlighted how the legislation can improve safety in work zones. The event, organized by MoDOT, was held at the Lance Corporal Leon Deraps I-70 Westbound Missouri River Bridge project.

[Biden-Harris Administration Announce \\$80 Million in Funding Available to Develop, Strengthen, Scale Equitable Pathways to Good Infrastructure Jobs](#)

To maximize the impact of the Biden-Harris administration’s historic infrastructure, manufacturing and clean energy investments, the U.S. Department of Labor today announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through its Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. The Investing in America agenda, which includes legislation such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, is creating millions of

good-paying jobs in renewable energy, transportation and broadband infrastructure sectors, and the Biden-Harris administration is helping workers access the training and develop the skills needed to fill these jobs. Pending availability of funds, the department intends to make a total of approximately \$200 million available for the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant program over multiple competitive rounds of funding. The grants will enable partners in the public and private sectors to develop or scale workforce training programs to prepare job seekers in advanced manufacturing; information technology; and professional, scientific, and technical service occupations that support renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors.

EPA Announces Proposed Standards to Reduce Tail Pipe Emissions

Last week, EPA issued proposed pollutant standards for tail pipe emissions from light-duty and medium-duty vehicles starting with model year 2027. According to EPA, the proposal would build upon EPA's final standards for federal greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks for model years 2023 through 2026. The [proposed standards](#) would phase in over model years 2027 through 2032.

EPA Requests Public Input and Data to Inform Potential Future Regulations of Hazardous Substances

Late last week the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) asking the public for input regarding potential future hazardous substance designations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund." This request follows EPA's September 2022 proposed rule to designate two PFAS — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOAs) and per-fluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) -- as hazardous substances. Among the PFAs and PFOAs that EPA wishes to include as hazardous substances are Hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (HFPO-DA), sometimes called GenX, and compounds that degrade in the environment by processes such as biodegradation, photolysis, and hydrolysis, to form certain PFAS. Many of these compounds have been shown to have severe neonatal impacts on both the fetus and mother. EPA is also seeking information on whether some PFAS compounds can or should be designated as a group or category. EPA has published a Federal Register Notice that may be viewed on www.regulations.gov. Comments must be received on or before June 12, 2023. EPA has provided additional [information on the ANPRM](#), its [strategy to address PFAS](#), and its [Superfund program](#).



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April 21, 2023

New bills for consideration

- [HB23-1302](#) – Housing Accessibility (House Transportation, Housing & local Govt 04/25/23 @ 1:30pm)
- [HB23-1304](#) – Proposition 123 Affordable Housing Programs (House Transportation, Housing & local Govt)
- [SB23-291](#) – Utility Regulation (Passed Finance & Appropriations)
- [SB23-292](#) - Labor Requirements for Energy Sector Construction (Business, Labor & Tech 04/25/23 @ 2pm)

Priority Bills

Bill #	Title	Position	Status	Hearing
HB23-1052	Mod Prop Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities	Support	Passed House; Passed Senate	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
HB23-1075	Wildfire Evacuation and Clearance Time Modeling	Amend	Passed House; Passed Senate Ag, referred to Appropriations	Not yet scheduled
HB23-1101	Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility	Amend	Passed House; Amended, Passed Senate; Senate & House Adopted Second Conference Committee Report	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
HB23-1184	Low-income Housing Property Tax Exemptions	Support	Passed House; Assigned to Senate Finance	04/25/23 @ 2pm
HB23-1294	Pollution Protection Measures	Oppose	Amended, Passed House; Amended Passed Senate	Signed into Law
SB23-016	Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures	Amend	Amended, Passed Senate, Amended, Passed House Energy & Environment, Referred to Finance	Not yet scheduled
SB23-036	Veterans with Disabilities Prop Tax Exemption Requirements	Support	Passed Senate; Passed House State Affairs & Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	04/21/23 @ 9am
SB23-059	State Parks and Wildlife Area Local Access Funding	Support	Amended, Passed Senate; Passed House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources, Referred to Finance	04/24/23 @ 1:30pm
SB23-108	Allowing Temporary Reductions in Property Tax Due	Monitor	Passed Senate; Passed House Finance, Awaiting Second Reading	04/21/23 @ 9am

SB23-111	Public Employees' Workplace Protection	Oppose	Amended, Passed Senate, Assigned to House State Affairs	04/24/23 @ 1:30pm
SB23-161	Financing to purchase Firefighting Aircraft	Support	Passed Senate; Passed House Finance & Appropriations	Not yet scheduled
SB23-166	Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board	Oppose	Amended, Passed Senate; Passed House Transportation, Housing & Local Govt & Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	Not yet scheduled
SB23-172	Protecting Opportunities and Workers' Rights Act	Oppose	Passed Senate; Passed House Judiciary	Not yet scheduled
SB23-213	Land Use	Oppose	Passed Senate Local Government and Appropriations, Awaiting second reading	Not yet scheduled
SB23-214	Long Bill	Monitor for PPAGC Priority Issues	Passed Senate; Passed House; Conference Committee Report Adopted	Awaiting Governor's Signature
SB23-280	Hazardous Material Mitigation	Monitor	Passed Senate Finance, Referred to Appropriations	Not yet scheduled

Full list of bills

<https://app.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/6512/2023/0/>