



Pikes Peak Area  
Council of Governments  
Communities Working Together

**MEETING AGENDA**  
**PPACG LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**May 8, 2023, 8:30 a.m.**

In Person

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

Microsoft Teams (Video and Audio)

[www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)

Meeting ID: 292 646 507 320

Passcode: jBEZJX

Dial in (Audio Only)

Phone Number: (929) 242-8427

Conference ID: 265 991 74

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 updates
  - 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
5. Next meeting

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 is in session. The House returns Tuesday, May 9.*

#### [Senators Hopeful they can Keep Rail Safety Bill on Track After East Palestine](#)

A bipartisan group of senators are looking to pass legislation that would establish safety requirements for trains with hazardous material cargo. The Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday announced a May 10 markup of the bill, dubbed the Railway Safety Act. Though Republicans have acknowledged the legislation may be a tough sell for some of their members, the bill could offer both parties the opportunity to pass their first major piece of bipartisan legislation this session. While some Republicans acknowledge the bill is likely to rankle some of their members given its focus on regulatory reforms, senators from both parties have expressed optimism that they might be able to come to an agreement. The fight to pass bipartisan rail safety legislation comes as East Palestine reels from a hazardous train derailment that required hundreds of residents in the eastern Ohio village to evacuate on February 3.

#### **Debt Ceiling: Are We Any Closer to a Deal? No, but Democrats and Republicans Are Beginning to Discuss Areas of Compromise and Senators Have Begun to Work on a Fiscal Plan**

Even though the House, last week, narrowly passed a House majority-backed bill to raise the debt limit into next year and force spending cuts, Congress appeared no closer to a bipartisan deal to raise the debt ceiling. However, some Republicans and Democrats in Congress believe that there may be room for a compromise that will keep intact or nearly intact some of the provisions the House majority is demanding while softening the impact of many of those proposals. These include expanding work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, which many in Congress on both sides of the aisle have supported in the past; implementing spending caps, which have been a part of previous debt limit increases, authorizing a "fiscal commission" that could propose goals for reducing the deficit over time; and giving the president authority to raise the debt limit subject to congressional override. What ultimately will matter is how severe the proposed work requirements and spending caps are, and how much flexibility to raise the debt ceiling Congress is willing to give the president.

In the meantime, Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) are working on a bi-partisan agreement to raise the debt ceiling and develop a spending plan that would avoid a debt ceiling crisis on June 1, and a government shutdown on October 1, 2023.

The importance of this issue, and its urgency, cannot be underestimated. Today, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin announced that the U.S. government will reach its borrowing threshold on June 1, just one month from today, and earlier than many were predicting. For example, just last week some on Wall Street believed that the debt ceiling was not likely to be reached until July 31, a full two months after the latest Treasury announcement. That was because there appeared to be a late surge in tax receipts around April 18, according to Politico, that some thought would extend the date of reckoning until the very end of July.

#### **Appropriations: House Appropriations Markups to Begin in Mid-May**

House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) informed committee members that subcommittee and full committee markups will begin on May 17 and continue through June 15. She indicated that subcommittee markups will occur on May 17 and 18, and June 7 and 8, and full committee markups will be held on May 23, 24, and 25 and June 13, 14 and 15. The schedule will only hold, however, if subcommittee leaders receive their fiscal year (FY) 2024 allocations in the next two weeks.

The expectation is that the top line funding for all discretionary appropriations will be set at FY 2022 levels, the same level (\$1.47 trillion) as was set in the House debt ceiling legislation that passed last week (see above). That figure would amount to a cut of \$131 billion in discretionary spending from the enacted fiscal 2023 level.

Some subcommittee chairs are already expressing concern that time is running out to meet a September 30th deadline and are already predicting a continuing resolution, according to CQ. Others are expressing concern that their appropriations authorizations could be cut by as much as 22 percent over current levels because of the requirement to cut \$131 billion from the FY 2024 budget.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **[FHWA Recently Released Version 2.0 of its Database for Air Quality and Noise Analysis \(DANA\)](#)**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently released version 2.0 of its Database for Air Quality and Noise Analysis (DANA) tool on its [website](#). DANA is a tool created by FHWA to combine traffic data from existing data sources into properly formatted inputs to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model and the FHWA's [Traffic Noise Model Aide](#) (TNMAide). Improvements for DANA 2.0 focus on refining the accuracy of the calculations, but it also include usability improvements, bug fixes, and the latest Travel Monitoring Analysis System data (2021). Some possible uses for DANA and TNMAide include assisting in completing noise analyses for NEPA documents, planning analyses to identify highway projects and mitigation measures, and MOVES county-level runs completed for various purposes (mobile source air toxics analysis, greenhouse gas analysis, etc.). To learn more about the DANA tool, see the [DANA 2.0 User Guide](#), which includes sections on background, setup, operating the graphical user interface (GUI), data flow, and input/output data specifications.

### **[USDOT Announces Funding for 27 Small Shipyards in 20 States to Help Increase Productivity and Create Jobs](#)**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced \$20.8 million in grant awards to 27 small shipyards in 20 states through the Small Shipyard Grant Program. The funds will help shipyards modernize, increase productivity, and expand local job opportunities while competing in the global marketplace. Since 2008, MARAD's Small Shipyard Grant Program has awarded \$303 million to nearly 350 shipyards in 32 states and territories throughout the U.S. A complete list of shipyard grant recipients in Fiscal Year 2023 can be found [here](#).

### **[FMCSA Forms New Task Force to Combat Predatory Leasing Practices](#)**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced the nine members who will serve on the Truck Leasing Task Force (TLTF) chartered by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. TLTF will evaluate lease agreements in the industry and their potential safety and financial impacts on owner-operators. TLTF is established as a statutory committee under the authority of Section 23009 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58 (2021), in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. TLTF will address areas that have long needed intense focus. It will be tasked with providing best practices to assist drivers in assessing the impacts of a leasing agreement prior to entering into such agreement and recommendations on changes to laws to promote fair leasing agreements. TLTF's work will contribute to FMCSA's efforts to ensure that drivers have access to fair leasing agreements. TLTF members include representatives from labor organizations, motor carriers, consumer protection groups, owner-operators, and other businesses, as well as attorneys and educators.

### **[DOL and NLC Announce Program to Help Cities Find Much-Needed Infrastructure Workers](#)**

The need for skilled construction workers is due to the expected surge in infrastructure construction over the next months and years that was brought on by the bi-partisan infrastructure law. The National League of Cities (NLC) estimates that the country may have a shortage of one million construction workers. To help address the problem NLC and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) are launching the [Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy](#) to help localities

find the workers needed to maintain roads, bridges, buildings and water lines that will be constructed with funds from the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law. According to NLC, NLC and DOL will pick 12 cities to work with federal experts from various agencies to come up with plans to find these workers. Importantly, the program will not be limited to individual cities. Consortia of cities that want to take a regional approach to solving their workforce problems will also be considered, opening the door to regional participation. Diversity will be a key factor when selecting the cities or regions that participate in the program.

### **EPA Releases \$41 Million to Help Communities Address Wastewater Challenges**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced last week that it was making \$41 million available to communities to address water challenges, especially in underserved communities. In its [announcement](#), EPA said the “new funding, awarded to nine technical assistance providers across the country, will primarily help rural, small, and Tribal communities assess water needs, identify solutions, and access funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other federal programs.” Communities interested in obtaining water technical assistance should review EPA’s [WaterTA](#) web page.

### **Air Quality Improves for Some and Worsens for Others**

According to [Axios](#), overall air quality in the United States has improved since the advent of Covid. More recently, however, there is evidence that the air quality is getting worse, especially in the West and Florida. Air quality, as measured by fine particle pollution, improved across much of the country between 2015 and 2021, but worsened across several Western states and Florida. A [Harvard study](#) drew a direct link between Covid and improved air quality, documenting that those states that implemented the most stringent regulations found that their air quality ratings improved the most.

### **Programs to Expand EV Charging at Work, Apartments on the Rise**

Efforts to grow workplace charging for [electric vehicles](#), as well as charging opportunities in apartment buildings and disadvantaged neighborhoods, continues to gain momentum, according to [Government Technology](#). In Oregon, \$1.75 million has been allocated to fund charging efforts in rural and disadvantaged areas. [CALSTART](#), a national clean transportation nonprofit, is working with more than 350 organizations to accelerate the development and deployment of clean and equitable transportation and is leading the Charge at Work campaign which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Charge at Work campaign is hoping to have 100,000 workplace charging ports installed across the country.

### **EECBG Program Submission Deadline Extended**

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it will extend the date by which it must receive a Pre-Award Information Sheet Submissions from eligible Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) formula grant recipients to July 31, 2023. The information provided on this form is required of any grantee eligible for a formula grant. Eligible entities may submit completed versions of the document to the EECBG Program Inbox: [eecbg@hq.doe.gov](mailto:eecbg@hq.doe.gov).

For ease of reference, here is a link to the Pre-Award Information Sheet:

[https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Pre-Award%20Information%20Sheet\\_edited%204.4\\_vF.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Pre-Award%20Information%20Sheet_edited%204.4_vF.pdf).

More information can be found on the [EECBG website](#). The Department is also hosting two webinars on the Formula Grant Program. The first is a technical assistance webinar on May 4 at 3:00 p.m. eastern. The webinar will be on the range of technical assistance that is available to grant recipients. Access the link to attend [here](#). The second is on May 11 at 3:00 p.m. eastern on how to incorporate energy justice into EECBG program goals. Access the link to attend [here](#).



May 7, 2023

**New bills for informational purposes**

- [SB23-302](#) – Colorado Veteran’s Service-to-career Program
- [SB23-303](#) – Reduce Property Taxes and Voter-approved Revenue Change
- [SB23-304](#) – Property Tax Valuation
- [SB23-305](#) – Property Tax Task Force
- [HB23-1311](#) – Identical Temporary TABOR Refund

**Priority Bills**

Bill #	Title	Position	Status	Hearing
<a href="#">HB23-1052</a>	Mod Prop Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities	Support	Passed House; Passed Senate	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
<a href="#">HB23-1075</a>	Wildfire Evacuation and Clearance Time Modeling	Amend	Passed House; Passed Senate	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
<a href="#">HB23-1101</a>	Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility	Amend	Passed House; Amended, Passed Senate; Senate & House, Adopted Second Conference Committee Report	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
<a href="#">HB23-1184</a>	Low-income Housing Property Tax Exemptions	Support	Passed House; Passed Senate	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
<a href="#">HB23-1294</a>	Pollution Protection Measures	Oppose	Amended, Passed House; Amended Passed Senate	Signed into Law
<a href="#">HB23-1311</a>	Identical Temporary TABOR Refund	Informational	Passed Senate Appropriations, Awaiting second reading	05/07/23 @ 5pm
<a href="#">SB23-016</a>	Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures	Amend	Amended, Passed Senate, Amended, Passed House, Awaiting Adoption of First Conference Committee Report (Rerevised version with amendments)	05/08/23 @ 10am
<a href="#">SB23-036</a>	Veterans with Disabilities Prop Tax Exemption Requirements	Support	Passed Senate; Passed House State Affairs & Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	Awaiting Governor’s Signature
<a href="#">SB23-059</a>	State Parks and Wildlife Area Local Access Funding	Support	Amended, Passed Senate; Passed House	Awaiting Governor’s Signature

<a href="#">SB23-108</a>	Allowing Temporary Reductions in Property Tax Due	Monitor	Passed Senate; Passed House Finance, Awaiting Third Reading	05/07/23 @ 10am
<a href="#">SB23-111</a>	Public Employees' Workplace Protection	Oppose	Amended, Passed Senate, Passed House	Awaiting Governor's Signature
<a href="#">SB23-161</a>	Financing to purchase Firefighting Aircraft	Support	Passed Senate; Passed House	Awaiting Governor's Signature
<a href="#">SB23-166</a>	Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board	Oppose	Amended, Passed Senate; Amended, Passed House	Awaiting Governor's Signature
<a href="#">SB23-172</a>	Protecting Opportunities and Workers' Rights Act	Oppose	Passed Senate; Amended, Passed House, Senate Repassed	Awaiting Governor's Signature
<a href="#">SB23-213</a>	Land Use	Oppose	Amended, Passed Senate, Amended, Passed House, Awaiting Senate Concurrence with House Amendments	05/08/23 @ 10am
<a href="#">SB23-214</a>	Long Bill	Monitor for PPAGC Priority Issues	Passed Senate; Passed House; Conference Committee Report Adopted	Awaiting Governor's Signature
<a href="#">SB23-280</a>	Hazardous Material Mitigation	Monitor	Passed Senate; Passed House Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	05/08/23 @ 10am
<a href="#">SB23-302</a>	Colorado Veteran's Service-to-career Program	Informational	Passed Senate, Passed House Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	05/07/23 @ 5pm
<a href="#">SB23-303</a>	Reduce Property Taxes and Voter-approved Revenue Change	Informational	Passed Senate, Passed House Appropriations, Awaiting Second Reading	05/07/23 @ 5pm
<a href="#">SB23-304</a>	Property Tax Valuation	Informational	Passed Senate, Passed House Appropriations, Awaiting Third Reading	05/07/23 @ 5pm
<a href="#">SB23-305</a>	Property Tax Task Force	Informational	Assigned to Senate Finance	Postponed Indefinitely

**Full list of bills**

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