



## City Council Weekly Information Packet

Friday, July 30, 2021

Includes the following documents/information:

- 1) City Council Events Schedule
- 2) State and Federal Update & Grant Opportunities
- 3) Partial Reopening of Corbell Park



# City Council Events Schedule

July 30, 2021 thru September 29, 2021

The Mayor and City Council have been invited to attend various community meetings and public and private events at which a quorum of the City Council may be present. The Council will not be conducting city business, nor will any legal action be taken. This is an event only and not a public meeting. A list of the community meetings and public and private events along with the schedules, dates, times, and locations is attached. Organizers may require a rsvp or fee.

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tue	Aug 3	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting for Westin Tempe  Location: Westin Tempe in downtown Tempe 11 E. 7th St. Tempe, AZ
Fri	Sept 17	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Omni Hotel & Conference Center Groundbreaking  Location: Southeast Corner of Mill & University 7 E. University Dr. Tempe, AZ
Fri	Sept 17	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	2021 Tardeada Private Reception  Location: Tempe History Museum 809 E. Southern Avenue Tempe, AZ
Wed	Sept 29	5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Save the Date: 38th Annual Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards  Location: Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Event

07/30/2021 EF

# MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council  
THROUGH: Andrew Ching, City Manager  
FROM: Marge Zylla, Government Relations Officer  
DATE: July 30, 2021  
SUBJECT: State and Federal Update & Grant Opportunities

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Below are summaries of recent actions and announcements at the state and federal level:

- USCM Federal Infrastructure Update
- NLC Federal Infrastructure Update
- Mayors' DACA Letter
- Rio Reimagined Project Legislation Support
- EECBG Letter from Arizona Mayors to Sen. Sinema
- Electric School Bus Funding, Infrastructure Proposal
- Community Project Funding Requests
- New Laws Report, 2021 State Legislative Session
- Regional Representation Updates

Please let me know if there are follow-up questions for Tempe's federal lobbyist. Also, please let me know if Tempe staff members are pursuing federal grants so we can arrange for letters of support from our Congressional delegation.

## **USCM Federal Infrastructure Update**

*Via US Conference of Mayors staff, 7/29/21, excerpted*

### [Senate Agrees to Advance Infrastructure Bill Forward - Biden and Conference President Whaley Praise Bipartisan Move](#)

Yesterday, Senate Democrats and Republicans came together to advance an infrastructure bill that would provide approximately \$1 trillion for improving our nation's infrastructure.

This is the culmination of the deal on the bipartisan infrastructure framework from June 24. Since then a group of 10 Senators have been meeting in a somewhat secret manner with others wondering and waiting to see if a deal could be born. The news started to leak out yesterday and while we had heard this signal before, it was a tweet from Minority Leader Mitch McConnell saying that he favored the deal that made us realize it was coming.

[President Biden, in a statement](#), praised the coming together in the Senate.

Conference of Mayors President Dayton [Mayor Nan Whaley also released a statement](#) saying "bipartisanship is still possible" and she said "by leaving politics aside" lawmakers, like mayors, are showing that by working together they can provide the federal investment on infrastructure, a top priority of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

[The White House has released a Fact Sheet](#) reviewing what is contained in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal.

The vote on the agreement was 67 to 32 and while this vote puts the bill on track, there is still much work to be done before the Senate produces a final bill. There's also the question of House action and the lingering issue of what action will be taken on the American Families Act.

This first hurdle though has been made. We must now monitor the Senate action to protect our priorities.

## **NLC Federal Infrastructure Update**

*Via National League of Cities staff, 7/28/21, excerpted*

Today, the Senate voted to move forward on a [bipartisan infrastructure package](#), the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, which makes historic investments in the nation's transportation, water, and broadband infrastructure systems. This bill is a result of the lengthy negotiation between the Senate and the White House. A final vote in the Senate is expected in the coming days.

Speaker Pelosi has stated that the House will not move forward with this bill without also having the reconciliation bill in hand, which could lead to significant delays in its momentum. There is concern over the price tag of a reconciliation package among Senate Republicans and moderates. Moderate Democrat Senator Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) said in a written statement today that she would vote to open debate on a reconciliation package but not vote for it on final passage at the current price tag of \$3.5 trillion. In an evenly divided 50-50 Senate, a Democrat not voting for the reconciliation bill could doom it, and force Speaker Pelosi to choose between moving forward without a reconciliation package, which would contain key policy objectives for President Biden, or holding off on the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

NLC released [this Twitter statement](#) today on the Senate's vote.

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* includes \$550 billion in new federal investments in America's infrastructure and will add, on average, 2 million jobs per year to the national economy. Below is a summary of key provisions and ongoing priorities as this bill moves forward.

## **Transportation**

The bill incorporates the surface transportation legislation already passed by the Senate Commerce and Environment and Public Works committees. It includes a surface transportation topline funding level of \$110 billion, including \$36.7 billion for bridges, \$7.5 billion for RAISE (formerly BUILD grants), \$5B for multi-modal grants, and \$3.2 billion for the INFRA grant program. The bill also includes \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail, including intercity passenger and freight rail funding, safety improvements, and railroad crossing hazard elimination. Crucially for cities, the package includes \$39.15 billion for public transit, including for maintenance, rehabilitation, capital investment, and for the purchase or lease of zero- or low-emission buses. It also incorporates \$5B for state and local "vision zero" plans and improvements to street safety.

## **Water**

The topline funding level for water infrastructure is \$55 billion. This includes \$23.4 billion for the bipartisan Senate-passed Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, although no details on how that will be divided among the programs. (See [NLC's summary of the DWWIA](#).) The bill also provides additional funding for addressing PFAS drinking water contamination and lead pipe replacement, but no details on amounts for each or whether it will be in the form of loans or grants for local governments.

## **Resiliency and Energy Infrastructure**

The bill provides \$46 billion in funding resilience and energy infrastructure. This includes for cybersecurity to address critical infrastructure needs, waste management, flood mitigation, wildfire, drought, coastal resiliency, ecosystem restoration, and weatherization. Many of these programs come from the bipartisan Energy Infrastructure Act passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is incorporated into the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Additionally, the bill would strengthen the electric grid, support energy efficiency and renewable energy for residential and commercial buildings, industrial and manufacturing sectors and schools, and address western water resilience and infrastructure.

A key priority that NLC advocated for is included - \$550 million authorization for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for FY22.

## **Broadband**

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* allocates \$65 billion to closing the digital divide, through a combination of federal broadband infrastructure grants, financing, and grants for digital inclusion and affordability. The proposal includes \$40 billion for a state block grant program to reach unserved and underserved locations, \$600 million to finance projects in rural areas, \$2 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect rural broadband program, a "middle mile" broadband infrastructure grant program, and an additional \$2 billion for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. It also includes \$2.75 billion for the Digital Equity Act, which provides state and competitive grants for digital inclusion planning and programming, and additional funding for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program, to extend a subsidy for broadband subscriptions to low-income households for an additional 5 years at a lower \$30/month rate.

## **Cybersecurity**

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* also includes support for cybersecurity, in recognition of the increasing threat of cyberattacks such as ransomware to critical infrastructure. The package includes a new dedicated \$1 billion, 5-year grant program to support state, local, tribal and territorial cybersecurity. The package also includes supplemental funding for the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate for Research and Development, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Office of the National Cyber Director, to provide research, coordination, and assistance to federal agencies, state and local governments, and private infrastructure owners to prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

## **Workforce**

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* falls extremely short, as expected, on meeting the workforce training needs in cities, towns and villages across the country. NLC has long advocated for a strong investment, \$100B, in skills training to ensure that communities have workers trained and ready to build and repair the extensive physical infrastructure systems that will result from this bill. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* contains only \$60M in new funds directed towards skills training in the energy and construction sectors - a far cry from the significant investment that will be needed to transition workers into the millions of jobs created by this investment. As Congress moves forward with a reconciliation bill, NLC will continue to make investments in skills training a priority, including short-term occupational training and on-the-job training, that will support a local talent pipeline in building, rebuilding and maintaining our critical American infrastructure.

## **Bonds**

The bill raises the cap for surface transportation bonds from \$15 billion to \$30 billion, as currently \$14.98 billion has been issued or allocated. This increase will allow state and local governments to enter into additional public-private partnerships to supplement future surface transportation projects with private investment.

## **Private Activity Bonds**

Local governments can finance certain projects that benefit private entities but still receive tax-exempt status on the bonds. There are currently 27 categories that qualify as eligible "qualified private activities."

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* would add broadband as an allowable use for private activity bonds. This could speed the deployment of broadband to rural areas. In addition, carbon capture technology and direct air capture technology would be eligible qualified private activity. This would help bring down the cost of commercializing the technology by allowing for lower interest rate bond financing.

## **Unknowns**

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* will recapture \$205 billion in unspent COVID relief funds—the act's largest funding source. The top-line summaries do not provide any more details on exactly where the money will come from, but at the same time it does not indicate that it will come from the American Rescue Plan Act that provided direct aid to cities, towns and villages.

The bill summaries currently circulating also lack many details about the policy specifics of critical programs, including any potential “poison pills” or preemption provisions impacting localities. It also remains to be seen precisely how many dollars will be directly available to cities, towns and villages through these programs, rather than to states.

### **Mayors’ DACA Letter**

Mayor Woods joined other mayors across the country in signing a letter circulated by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to urge Congressional action on paths to citizenship in light of the recent U.S. District Court decision regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The text of the letter is below.

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

Given the July 16 Texas U.S. District Court decision holding that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is unlawful, it is even more urgent than ever that Congress act quickly to provide permanent protection from deportation and a path to citizenship for all Dreamers – people who have lived in America since they were children and built their lives here. As Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, we write on behalf of all the nation’s mayors to urge you to take whatever action is necessary and possible immediately to accomplish this. We pledge to work with you in this effort to help you make this happen.

The United States Conference of Mayors has had strong policy supporting a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and extension of the DACA program for many years. Our bipartisan organization has adopted this policy because it is the right thing to do – for Dreamers, for our communities, and for our country.

The cultural, economic, and social contributions of the more than 800,000 DACA recipients and their families to our cities cannot be overstated; particularly during a global pandemic where over 200,000 DACA recipients are working in essential roles, including 27,000 in health care positions. Each year, DACA recipients and their households pay \$5.6 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes on top of their payroll tax contributions to Social Security and Medicare. After taxes, DACA recipients and their households have a combined \$24 billion in spending power to put back into their communities.

The time for Congress to act is now and America’s mayors stand ready to work with you to provide a path to citizenship for all Dreamers.

### **Rio Reimagined Project Legislation Support**

U.S. Senators Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) introduced the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Act—bipartisan legislation that authorizes a program led by the Environmental Protection Agency that supports the revitalization of the river corridor through the Rio Reimagined Project. A quote from Mayor Woods was included in the press release, available at [this link](#).

### **EECBG Letter from Arizona Mayors to Sen. Sinema**

Mayor Woods joined other Arizona mayors in sending a letter to Senator Sinema to express support for the restoration of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) funding into the infrastructure or reconciliation package. The letter is included as an attachment to this memo.

### **Electric School Bus Funding, Infrastructure Proposal**

Mayor Woods was quoted in the American Lung Association (ALA)'s press release supporting the inclusion of electric school bus funding in the federal infrastructure bill and administration proposal. The release includes polling results on the topic and is available at [this link](#).

### **Community Project Funding Requests**

As noted in earlier City Council Weekly Information packets, the City of Tempe submitted 10 funding requests in response to the respective invitations of Senator Sinema, Senator Kelly and Congressman Stanton to submit city projects and programs for federal funding through the Appropriations Committee. The Community Funding Projects that Sen. Sinema is advancing at this stage of the process are at [this link](#). One of the city's requests is included: Growing BIPOC Micromanufacturing Entrepreneurs in Tempe.

### **New Laws Report, 2021 State Legislative Session**

Throughout the 2021 Regular Session of the State Legislature, Legislative Update memos in the City Council Weekly Information packets highlighted pending and passed legislation with potential significance to the City of Tempe. Now that the session has wrapped, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns has completed their 2021 New Laws Report. The report summarizes legislation with potential effects to cities and towns and identifies actions that municipalities may need to take to comply with new statutory law. The 2021 New Laws Report is available at [this link](#).

The City of Tempe tracked 650 separate bills during the 2021 legislative session. Individual city departments have been apprised of relevant bills throughout the session and will continue to analyze Tempe specific impacts from the new laws. Staff engagement from the City Attorney's Office and from subject matter experts throughout the city was integral in defeating and adjusting certain legislative proposals. However, there are also new laws that contain policies that are not favorable to cities. Staff continues to work to address these statutes in future sessions and to adapt to mitigate negative effects of new state legislation.

The effective date for all bills, unless noted differently in the bill summary, is September 29, 2021. City Attorney's Office and Government Relations staff will be meeting with other City Departments to go through implementation plans for applicable legislation.

### **Regional Representation Updates**

As the new fiscal year begins, many organizations and associations are updating and reaffirming the representation from member cities. Below is a list of some of the Tempe representatives on regional entities. Additional updates will be provided to reflect future adjustments.

#### ***Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA)***

Councilmember Doreen Garlid - AMWUA Board

#### ***Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)***

Mayor Corey Woods - Regional Council, Transportation Policy Committee

Vice Mayor Randy Keating - Economic Development Committee



City Manager Andrew Ching - Management Committee (Chair), POPTAC (Chair)

***Valley Metro***

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage - RPTA Board, Valley Metro Rail Board (Vice-Chair),  
Audit Finance Subcommittee

July 20, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema,

On behalf of Arizona cities and mayors, we urge you to take action on legislation to reauthorize and restore funding to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), as proposed in legislation such as S.1639 and the CLEAN Future Act (H.R. 1512). We strongly support and encourage the inclusion of the EECBG program in the infrastructure package or related legislation currently under consideration.

The EECBG program is a product of bipartisan legislation originated in Congress and enacted by President George W. Bush, and was funded initially under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009. The program became a vital tool used by cities, counties, states and tribal governments throughout the United States to promote energy efficiency and conservation by modernizing community infrastructure. The Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory evaluated the program's efficacy and confirmed that it effectively increased energy conservation and lowered greenhouse gas emission while creating jobs and lowering residential electricity costs.

Local governments used the one-time funding under the EECBG program to accelerate energy efficiency and conservation by developing comprehensive energy plans, implementing green building codes, retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency, purchasing zero- and low-emission fleet vehicles, investing in renewable and low-carbon power sources, switching to LED lights, and undertaking other initiatives to increase the use of clean energy and retain and create jobs.

Arizona was allotted \$63,817,400 that was divided via formula funding to cities, counties, state agencies and tribal governments. The program was not an open checkbook for municipal wish lists, it had clear "guide-rails" that established categories of allowable use of funds and reporting on project completion to the DOE. The federal financial resources were put to use in Arizona to upgrade the energy efficiency of buildings, changing out street lights to LED, supporting jobs of state vendors, etc.

The EECBG Program has overwhelming bipartisan mayoral support both here in Arizona and the nation. At a time when swift action on economic recovery from the pandemic is needed, and as concern is growing about the convergence of oppressive heat and wildfire threats we need Congress to help cities adapt to a changing environment. The EECBG program is an important tool that America needs: a mechanism that directs resources to a level of government that can expeditiously deploy those resources to the projects that yield the greatest public benefits.

For these reasons, we urge you to restore the program and allocate grants by formula directly to cities, counties, states and tribal governments for EECBG-eligible projects/activities.

We stand ready to work with you on this important legislation. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



John Giles  
Mesa Mayor



Kate Gallego  
Phoenix Mayor



Regina Romero  
Tucson Mayor



Jerry Weier  
Glendale Mayor



Cory Woods  
Tempe Mayor

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**THROUGH:** Steven Methvin, Deputy City Manager, x8811  
Keith Burke, Community Services Director, x5819  
**FROM:** Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks and Recreation, x5234  
**DATE:** July 30, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Partial Reopening of Corbell Park



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## PURPOSE:

Update Mayor and Council on the status of Corbell Park renovations.

## CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Quality of Life – 3.16: Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the Quality of City recreation, arts, and cultural centers greater than or equal to the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Though Corbell Park renovations have taken longer than anticipated and originally communicated to the neighborhood, improvements are now in the final stages, with a portion of the park reopening. Though the park will not fully reopen for a few more weeks, fencing is being moved to allow for access to open space on the northeast and south sides of the park, as well as the east soccer field.

The new playground and basketball court will remain closed to allow for final adjustments to the hardscape, the installation of new sod, and turf improvements in areas impacted by construction activities. The construction entrance and staging area will remain enclosed, as well as a fenced access area throughout the park.

A postcard and message will be sent to the neighborhood, providing a similar update.

We are looking forward to fully reopening the park in the coming weeks and celebrating the improvements.