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House Committee Continues Consideration on \$494B Infrastructure Bill

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will meet this Wednesday to mark up its \$494 billion surface transportation bill. The omnibus legislation authorizes various transportation programs, including highway and mass transit, over five years and includes several provisions to help the transportation sector address post-coronavirus recovery efforts. SFAA is working with House members to support this effort including legislation endorsed by the surety industry, H.R. 6359, in the House package. Click [here](#) to see SFAA's press release on the House infrastructure bill.



Several House Republicans have criticized House Democrats for taking a partisan approach to advancing surface transportation legislation and focusing heavily on climate change provisions. However, over the weekend, a senior leader in the Trump Administration, Peter Navarro, stated that the President would like to see “something on the order of at least \$2 trillion” in a new stimulus bill. Federal infrastructure investment presents lawmakers a unique opportunity to pump more money into the economy and put people back to work to accelerate the post COVID-19 economic recovery. SFAA is strongly encouraging lawmakers and policy makers to advance significant infrastructure reform to jump start our nation’s economic recovery.



Contract Bonds and Commercial Surety Advisory Committees Hold First Ever Virtual Meeting

Both the Contract Bonds and Commercial Surety Advisory Committees met in May hosting their first ever Zoom meetings.

- Both Committees made improvements to governance by implementing two-year rotations and creating a Vice Chair position for increased engagement across the committee and improved succession planning. CBAC elected its first Vice Chair during the meeting: Greg Horne of Liberty Mutual. SFAA is excited to partner with both Chair Ed Woods of Guarantee Company of North America/Intact and Greg Horne.
 - The CBAC Meeting began with John Parkinson, Lecturer in Discipline, Construction Administration, at Columbia University, providing a Construction Market Update on the Impacts of the Novel Coronavirus.
 - The Committee also advanced its work on the top strategic priorities for 2020, specifically the data project to demonstrate the Value of Bonding and to advance private sector bonding opportunities via the Private Bonding Task Force.
 - SFAA also shared an important update on [new bond forms](#) that are being used by various California School Districts containing fairly onerous terms.
 - The Commercial Surety Advisory Committee elected James Crinnion of Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance as its first Vice Chair.
 - The Committee made exciting new operational changes to further drive engagement and to more effectively address industry wide issues given the breadth of the commercial surety segment of the business.
 - The following new subcommittees were established, and the initial leaders identified for each:
 - (1) Education Subcommittee to be led by James Crinnion as CSAC Vice Chair, Tony Albanese of Nationwide, Craig Gortner of Chubb, and John Bruno of Great American.
 - (2) Customs Subcommittee to be led by Michelle Lucaccioni of The Hartford.
 - The Committee also established new working groups around the following sectors with the following initial leaders to raise and address industry wide issues with recommendations to the Committee at large:
 - (1) Energy – Open;
 - (2) Mining – Joe Poplawski of Argo and Aaron Ort of Evergreen;
 - (3) Compliance – Rosemary Quinn and Jay Holtz of CNA; and
 - (4) Judicial/Fiduciary – Maureen DiMatteo of Travelers.
 - Beth Ann Bovino, Chief Economist with S&P Global, began the CSAC Committee meeting with a discussion on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Economy and the Commercial Surety sector.
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SFAA Joins Executive Committee on Top Transportation Coalition

Last week, SFAA was accepted as the newest member of the

Executive Committee of the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC), the leading surface transportation coalition in Washington, DC. The TCC, which was formed in 1996, has been one of the most influential voices in Washington on the past four surface transportation bills. The coalition is ramping up its work to push for broad infrastructure investment in the coming months as Congress considers long term authorizations of its infrastructure programs.



The organization is chaired by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America. SFAA will join the 12 other Executive Committee members in the fight to advance significant infrastructure investment in Congress to jumpstart our economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19. For more information on the TCC please visit their website by clicking [here](#).



Save the Date - SFAA's Upcoming Webinar on COVID-19's Impact on Infrastructure

Please join us for SFAA's upcoming webinar on Wednesday, June 24 at 1pm EST. Hear from experts Jill Jamieson, CEO of Illuminati Infrastructure Advisors, a leading voice in public sector infrastructure advisory arena and John Parkinson, current Columbia University Lecturer in Discipline and former director of the Association for the

Improvement of American Infrastructure to learn:

- How state and federal infrastructure pipelines have been impacted by the pandemic;
- Considerations around stimuli packages and/or infrastructure bills; and
- How key stakeholders are adapting and positioning for the future.

A link to register for the webinar will be sent out shortly.

SFAA Government Affairs Advisory Committee Meets on 2020 Priorities

The Government Affairs Advisory Committee recently met to discuss SFAA's advocacy goals and objectives for 2020-2021. Among topics discussed were occupational licensing, public-private partnerships, use of credit, Little Miller Act and state P3 law revisions, conservatorship/guardianship bonds, and North Carolina energy savings bonds. The Committee also discussed SFAA's electronic bonding outreach efforts and preparation of a plan to address remaining hurdles. The Committee also discussed implementation of recently adopted best practices, including addition of State Affairs Advisory Subcommittee bi-weekly meetings, preparation and use of revised advocacy materials, an updated Advocacy website landing page, and increased collaboration between the Association and member company government affairs teams, APCIA, and NASBP.



Stephen Taylor, Former District of Columbia DISB Commissioner Joins SFAA

SFAA is excited to announce that Stephen Taylor has joined SFAA beginning today, June 15th as Director of Policy and Assistant General Counsel. Mr. Taylor's extensive professional credentials include over 25 years of public sector legal experience. Most recently, Mr. Taylor was the Commissioner in the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, a role that entailed serving as the city's chief financial services regulator for state insurance, securities and banking entities. Appointed by the Mayor and unanimously

confirmed by the DC Council, Mr. Taylor oversaw the department's \$28 million budget, 144 authorized employees and approximately \$140 million in revenue.

Previously, Mr. Taylor served as the Assistant Attorney General, Commercial Division, Procurement Section, for Washington, DC and Acting Purchasing Agent and Special Projects Officer for the City of Alexandria, VA, managing the acquisition of \$130 million of goods, services, insurance and construction. Mr. Taylor has also held various General Counsel and Commissioner roles for the District of Columbia's Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, OAG; Department of Banking and Financial Institutions, OAG; Office of the Chief Financial Officer; and Council of the District of Columbia.

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