

TO: Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
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RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- As we initiated our representation of the County, Thorn Run Partners (TRP) participated in introductory meetings with the Dade County Intergovernmental Affairs team to begin our onboarding process.
- Among other issues, we participated in a meeting with the County to discuss the best approaches for its Economic Development Administration grant to fund the South Florida Resilience Tech Hub.
- On a host of issues, Thorn Run shared information on key Miami-Dade County priorities, including activity on the National Flood Insurance Program, personnel changes at the Federal Transit Administration, funding for MIA via the BIL-funded Airport Terminal Grants program, and EPA's rollout of the new Clean Ports Program, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.
- TRP also apprised Miami-Dade County of recent renewal of South Florida counties support for the Central & South Florida Flood Control Section 216 Study being performed by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- TRP alerted Miami-Dade County to a new Executive Order intended to bolster the security of the nation's ports, but which also could have some implications for Chinese cranes.
- TRP provided the County with our daily *Tip Sheet*, which we are happy to share with anyone at the County.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

Congressional leadership has formally announced next steps in the government funding process, putting lawmakers on track to avoid a partial shutdown. While Congress will need to pass another continuing resolution (CR) during today's session, an agreement was struck on six bills — Agriculture-FDA, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy-Water Development, Interior-Environment, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD — that will be voted on and enacted prior to the March 8 deadline. According to intel from Capitol Hill, text for these first six bills could be released prior to the end of the week or over the weekend. Funding for the remaining appropriations measures — Defense, Financial Services and General Government (FSGG), Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch, and State-Foreign Operations — will run through March 22 under the terms of the CR.

FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORIZATION UPDATE

In addition to a vote on the CR, House lawmakers will consider a two-month funding extension for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ahead of the agency's March 8 funding deadline. Upon enactment, the new deadline to reauthorize the FAA will be May 10, at which point aviation-focused lawmakers hope to have lingering issues pertaining to perimeter slots at DCA and the pilot retirement age ironed out.

RECENT FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES

DOT Roadway Safety Funding Now Available. The Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the availability of \$1.25 billion for cities, towns, counties, Tribal governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for local projects that improve roadway safety through the Safe Streets and Roads for All ([SS4A](#)) program. Applications for Implementation Grants are due by May 16. Planning and demonstration applicants will have three opportunities to apply with deadlines of April 4, May 16, and August 29.

Apprenticeship Grant Funding Available Through DOL. The Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) the availability of \$200 million in grant funding through the Apprenticeship Building America and State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grant programs.

For additional Federal grants, please see our most recent TRP [Grants](#) Newsletter.

OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

[POLITICO: Judge overturns Trump-era decision giving Florida federal wetlands authority \(\\$\)](#)

A federal judge has overturned a Trump administration decision to hand Florida authority over the federal wetlands permitting program, a win for green groups that fought the transfer and a setback for Florida developers who were already facing a backlog in permit applications. In [a decision](#) handed down late Thursday, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Randolph Moss concluded that EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service had erred in 2020 by approving protection from Endangered Species Act liability as part of the Clean Water Act permits. He found that the agencies had failed to conduct a rigorous analysis of how transferring the program to Florida would impact the 139 endangered or threatened species that live within the state... EPA's approval of Florida's wetlands permitting program was the third time that the federal agency has handed over authority for issuing federal permits, but offering blanket ESA compliance as part of the transfer was novel. Florida had argued that requiring permit applicants to seek individual incidental take permits or elevating permit applications to EPA when endangered species could be affected by projects being developed was too "burdensome" and "time-consuming."

[Roll Call: Another year, another disaster aid gap as funding deadline nears](#)

For the second year in a row, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund is facing a summer shortfall smack in the middle of hurricane and wildfire season. The problem isn't lost on congressional appropriators or the White House, which requested an additional \$9 billion for the fund back in October. Still, it's not clear whether the final fiscal 2024 Homeland Security Department spending bill due March 8 will provide a vehicle for more disaster aid money. Shoring up the disaster relief fund is "a topic in ongoing conference discussions" on final appropriations bills, a Senate aide familiar with the talks said. Another aide said ensuring FEMA has enough cash is a "priority" both for the administration and appropriators, though it was too soon to say how or when more funds would be provided.

[The Hill: Biden administration considering delaying switch to electric vehicles](#)

The Biden administration is expected to loosen its rules for the country's switch to electric vehicles (EVs), The New York Times first reported Saturday, citing three people familiar with the plan. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) change in its proposed rule would implement less stringent requirements for vehicle pollution in the short term — effectively allowing car manufacturers to have a smaller percentage of their fleet be electric in 2030 than under the Biden administration's initial proposal, the Times reported. The rule change would be a win for car manufacturers and labor unions, allowing the industry more time to boost its EV production and charging infrastructure before regulations encroach on the gas-powered vehicle market.

[The Hill: Trump tax cuts on the line in 2024 election](#)

The 2017 Trump tax cuts are on the line in the election this year, with Republicans hoping a sweep of Congress and the White House will allow them to extend the former president's signature law. Democrats opposed the law when Trump was in power but have supported extending certain cuts, such as the decreased tax rates for people making less than \$400,000 a year. Democrats do not want a blanket extension, which would cost nearly \$4 trillion over the next decade. President Biden has supported bumping the corporate tax rate up to 28 percent from Trump's level of 21 percent. He wants to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to reduce the deficit by between \$3 trillion and \$4 trillion over 10 years. A sweep of the White House and Congress would put either party in a better position to accomplish its aims through tackling the cuts with a budget reconciliation measure, a way of getting around the Senate's 60-vote filibuster.

[POLITICO: Lawmakers nearing deal on nutrition funding in spending talks](#)

Lawmakers are nearing a major deal that could unlock a key piece of the funding logjam on Capitol Hill ahead of the looming partial shutdown March 2. Negotiators are considering a deal to approve a pilot program restricting some choices for SNAP beneficiaries in exchange for a boost in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and several other nutrition programs as they try to hammer out a spending deal. According to three people familiar with the talks, the possible deal involves adding what's known as the SNAP-choice pilot program, backed by Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA Chair Andy Harris (R-Md.), to the Ag-FDA spending bill, as well as an undisclosed amount of extra funding for WIC, the nutrition program that helps feed millions of low-income mothers and babies, which is facing a funding cliff. The extra funding is expected to be enough for Democrats to say they were able to keep recipients from being put on waitlists.

Please let us know if you have any questions.