



MAY FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative Update

In May, Congress passed a five-year, \$105 billion bill that will reauthorize the FAA. This marks one of the last must-pass bills making it through Congress before the November elections. Additionally, the EPA announced it will award \$875 million to fund the purchase of over 3,400 school buses, most of them electric. Among the selectees for this award was Miami-Dade, which requested 25 buses for nearly \$9 million dollars. The funding is the third round of money included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021 to fund the replacement of older diesel-powered buses. Prior rounds awarded almost \$3 billion to fund 8,500 school bus replacements, according to EPA.

Along with these transportation updates, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a major water infrastructure bill to address flooding and droughts and study environmental challenges across the nation. This year's Water Resources Development Act passed unanimously and will be named after Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), the committee chair who is retiring after more than 20 years in the Senate. The bill directs the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a range of studies and projects to reduce flood risks, manage coastal storms and restore ecosystems. Aside from new projects, the bill would direct the Army Corps to prioritize and finish previously established initiatives, including multiple ecosystem restoration studies for the Florida Everglades.

Relating to trade, the U.S. will raise tariffs on electric vehicles, clean energy technologies, computer chips and metals imported from China, the White House said in May, the culmination of a years-long review and spirited debate within the administration over the Trump-era duties. White House officials say they targeted Chinese sectors for tariffs that compete with American industries that the Biden administration has sought to support with tariffs of its own. As part of those efforts, tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles will quadruple to 100 percent, while duties on Chinese solar cells will double to 50 percent. Tariffs on semiconductors will double to 50 percent, and those on batteries will more than triple to 25 percent. Tariffs on medical syringes will go from zero to 50 percent, and duties on other medical goods will increase as well.

The move represents an escalation in the U.S. trade war with China that began when former President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on more than \$300 billion of Chinese imports in 2018.

Lastly, Florida Republican Senator Rick Scott announced his bid to run for GOP Leader following Senator Mitch McConnell's announcement that he would step down. Senate Minority Whip John Thune (R-S.D.) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), a former whip himself, have both declared that they would run for the position as well.

PLG Actions

We are excited to receive our assignments and begin working on the issues assigned to us relating to public safety, juvenile services, water issues, and housing & transportation issues on behalf of the County. This month, our team continued to meet with staffers, Congressional members, and County Commissioners to discuss our representing Miami-Dade. Additionally, we provided a summary of FBI Director Christopher Wray's testimony during the Senate Appropriations hearing to the County. This testimony largely focused on homeland security and the need for increased funding for the FBI in FY 2025.