



TIA ON THE HILL

The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department



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\$3.5 Trillion Spending Package on the Horizon

Early Wednesday morning, Senate Democrats led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) adopted a budget measure that paves the way for the \$3.5 trillion spending plan that is not subject to the filibuster under the rules of the reconciliation process. After more than 14-hours of debate on a variety of amendments, the plan was passed along party lines, which includes money for climate and social initiatives, including subsidized childcare, expanded Medicare, and paid family and medical leave benefits.

The House of Representatives must over the plan, which would then unlock the reconciliation process. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has signaled that she will bring the House back early from the August recess to pass this as quickly as possible. The final Senate vote Wednesday on the budget resolution, which concluded just before 4 a.m., followed a classic vote-a-rama — an amendment barrage that allows the GOP to force the majority party into a series of uncomfortable votes. To make their Democratic colleagues suffer for sidelining GOP input on the \$3.5 trillion plan, Republican senators called for dozens of amendment votes on issues like critical race theory, defunding the police, immigration enforcement, and using federal money to cover abortions.

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Before the \$3.5 trillion plan can be sent off to Biden in the coming months, the Senate will have to endure at least one more vote-a-rama. That task could potentially be more painful than the amendment spree this week since trillions of dollars in Democratic priorities will be closer to the finish line and senators will be proposing tweaks to a much fuller legislative text than the budget framework currently under consideration.

While, TIA supports the bi-partisan Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill that the Senate passed last week as well, the Association has strong concerns with the price tag of this spending plan, focused on “human infrastructure” and the potential devastating implications to the American economy. Last week, the Consumer Price Index again climbed 5.4 percent from the prior year, which could be a sign that troubling times might be on the horizon for the Federal Reserve and the Biden Administration as prices hit a 20-year high.

TIA Statement on Passage of Bi-partisan Infrastructure Package

The Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA), the voice of the third-party logistics industry, issued the following statement in response to the Senate's bipartisan passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill:

The United States Senate today passed the bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bill on a 69-30 vote. Included in the final language passed by the Senate is \$550 billion in needed funding for our traditional infrastructure projects, including money for roads, bridges, transit, Amtrak, and more.

“TIA is proud to support this bipartisan measure; the U.S. economy and supply chain deserve to have the best infrastructure and most robust surface transportation in the world,” noted Chris Burroughs, TIA Vice President of Government Affairs. “This legislation delivers on that goal, and with more the \$11 billion dedicated to safety, TIA is proud to call upon the U.S. House of Representatives to pass this bill and for President Biden to sign it into law.”

Built into the legislation are three provisions TIA fully supports and is proud to present to its members. First, a provision that clarifies the role of a dispatch service in the supply chain. Second, language which asks for a full review of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) National Consumer Complaint Database and the subsequent action taken by the Federal Government. Included in this review is a mandate to include brokers in the process. Finally, a new apprenticeship pilot program for under 21-year-old drivers seeks to increase the carrier selection pool. This is a huge issue in the supply chain as the driver shortage continues to hamper transportation.

TIA applauds the work of the bipartisan group of U.S. Senators that put partisan politics aside and delivered on a surface transportation reauthorization that addresses our crumbling infrastructure and provides much-needed legislative clarity for the 3PL and freight brokerage industries.

TIA Hosts Lunch and Learn on 2021 Policy Forum

Last week, TIA hosted a Lunch and Learn webinar to help answers any questions and concerns TIA Members might have regarding the 2021 3PL Policy Forum that will take place in Washington, D.C. on September 27-29. Our policy forum as of right now will be in-person with a virtual option to be held the following week. You can fully expect to meet with your Members of Congress in the House and Senate office buildings. There are also events off of the Capitol Hill complex like our fundraising event with Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), executive-level briefings, and amazing networking events. During this Lunch and Learn, TIA addressed some of the common questions we received during our preparations for the Policy Forum. Questions like: how to address Members of Congress, which key issues we will be focused on during the event, and the do's and don'ts of D.C. fly-in events.

This is a crucial event as it directly impacts our growth on Capitol Hill, and yields tangible results on our top legislative priorities. During the 2020 Policy Forum, TIA garnered the support of 10 co-sponsors on our top priority legislation, H.R. 7457, which is the most support we have ever received. The Policy Forum gets better and better every year, as we adjust the event, based directly on feedback from TIA Member attendees.

There is no hiding the fact we find ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic with COVID-19 variants increasing around the country. Our excellent meetings team has procedures in place to keep our Members safe. Please do not hesitate to reach out and inquire with TIA about your questions about this event. We look forward to seeing you in September!

TIAPAC and Our Hill Efforts

TIAPAC and our efforts on Capitol Hill are closely interwound with each relying heavily on the other. Our PAC is a member-driven fund that allows for participation in events and meetings that are otherwise not accessible. This is our seat at the table for negotiations and discussions on issues that impact TIA members. TIAPAC hosts fundraising events year-round, from live webcasts to in-person networking opportunities with industry colleagues. Most recently, due to internal TIA changes, TIAPAC can now contribute to candidates seeking office for the first time at the Federal level. This is an opportunity that opens new doors for TIA and our efforts on Capitol Hill.

We have multiple TIAPAC events coming up in the next few weeks. First, our event in Albany, Texas. This is a TIAPAC fundraiser hosted by Triumph Pay and includes a Dove Hunt, Texas BBQ, and networking opportunities for present TIA Members. Shortly after the Dove Hunt, TIA welcomes members to Washington, D.C. where TIAPAC is hosting an event highlighting Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia. This is a part of our annual 3PL Policy Forum, September 28th and 29th .

If interested in learning more about TIAPAC events or attending the 2021 3PL Policy Forum, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions by emailing advocacy@tianet.org.