

# Federal Legislative Update



## Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

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# Presentation Overview



- 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – City of Dallas Efforts
- 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – Unfinished Business
- 117<sup>th</sup> Congress – Preview



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – City of Dallas Efforts



- Secured a direct allocation of \$234 million to the City from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, turning back efforts to limit allocations to the states
- Secured tens of millions of dollars in additional direct funding to the City from the CARES Act and other coronavirus relief bills
- Worked with the Finance Department and national organizations to lead national local government efforts to secure the broadest possible use of Coronavirus Relief Fund funds allowed by law



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – City of Dallas Efforts



- Worked with the House Appropriations Committee and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to secure additional Surface Transportation Block Grant funding for the Metroplex in the FY 2019, FY 2020, and pending FY 2021 Transportation Appropriations Act
- Secured an increase in the local funding share of Surface Transportation Block Grant and Transportation Alternatives Program in the House-passed surface transportation reauthorization bill
- Increased funding for several core local government grant programs, including Community Development Block Grants, HOME, public safety grants, and the Urban Area Security Initiative in the FY 2020 and pending FY 2021 appropriations bills,



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – City of Dallas Efforts



- Turned back the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Transit Capital Investment Grants Program
- Supported efforts for the Federal Railroad Administration and the Surface Transportation Board to move the Texas Central high-speed rail project through the federal review process
- Promoted legislation sponsored by Representative Veasey to reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant; the House leadership subsequently included it in the House-passed infrastructure package





# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – City of Dallas Efforts



- Continued progress on Hensley Field, including visits from White House and Navy officials
- Continued to educate and lobby the City's delegation on municipal finance in order to protect the tax exemption for municipal bonds and to build support for the reinstatement of advanced refunding of municipal bonds
- Tracked a wide array of regulations related to fair housing, payday lending, clean water, telecommunications, the Community Reinvestment Act, immigration, nutrition, and Surface Transportation Board review of Texas Central, including preparing and filing the City's comments



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – Unfinished Business



## Additional pandemic relief

- State and local government fiscal assistance remains the top sticking point

## FY 2021 appropriations

- The House has passed 11 of the 12 annual appropriations bills; the Senate has not passed any (even at the Committee level)
- Congress will most likely buy time with a Continuing Resolution through December 2020
- The CR will also include extensions of other expiring programs (transportation, health care, flood insurance, etc.)



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress – Unfinished Business



## Reauthorization of surface transportation programs

- The House has passed a five-year reauthorization of highway, transit, highway safety, and intercity passenger rail programs
- The Senate Environment & Public Works Committee has approved a five-year reauthorization of highway programs
- CR will punt long-term reauthorization to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress





# 117<sup>th</sup> Congress - Preview



**Agenda largely TBD pending election results, but:**

- Pandemic relief
- Reauthorization of surface transportation programs
- Infrastructure package/stimulus
- Climate change/Energy/Environment
- Police reform
- FY 2022 appropriations
- Housing





## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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