



WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Government Affairs Update October 5, 2021

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Last Friday, after a night of late negotiations, President Biden urged House Democrats to not vote on the bipartisan infrastructure bill until moderates and progressives within the party come to an agreement on the size and scope of the reconciliation package, resulting in Speaker Pelosi further delaying action. The President reaffirmed that passage of the infrastructure bill will continue to be tied to reconciliation, a concession to the progressives. However, he also noted that the cost of reconciliation will have to come down from the \$3.5 trillion proposed to somewhere in the range of \$1.9-2.3 trillion, a concession to the moderates.

Though we'll wait for a final vote, anticipated no later than the end of October, there is still optimism for the passage of a federal infrastructure bill, particularly because a full, 5-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs will need to be passed, and is currently included in the infrastructure bill. Though the House and the Senate passed a third extension of the surface transportation authorization over the weekend to repair a brief lapse in Highway Trust Fund programs and spending authority, that extension only lasts until the month's end. It is anticipated that the House will continue to take up these issues over the coming weeks as they try to reach an agreement. We will keep you apprised of any developments as they occur.

Best,

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