




## MEMORANDUM

To: City of San Antonio  
From: Thomas C. Downs   
Subject: Monthly report on Washington activities  
Date: April 14, 2017

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This reports on Washington activities for April 2017. It addresses the Congressional appropriations process; an appropriations request related to the San Antonio Tricentennial; the status of Trump administration Cabinet nominees; and recent federal grant announcements.

### Congressional Appropriations Process

Six-and-a-half months into fiscal year 2017, Congress still has not passed any of the 12 FY 2017 appropriations bills. Congress passed a short-term FY 2017 Continuing Resolution that extends until April 28, 2017 – a full seven months into the fiscal year.

House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders are beginning discussions behind closed doors to reconcile FY 2017 appropriations. Our expectation is that an “omnibus” appropriations bill will be prepared for final action by the House and Senate during the second half of April. However, if agreements cannot be reached on an omnibus package, it is possible that a Continuing Resolution (CR) could be adopted that would extend FY 2016 funding levels through September 30, the end of the 2017 fiscal year.

House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders working to reconcile FY 2017 appropriations have also been discussing a \$17 billion FY 2017 supplemental appropriations request from the Trump administration to fund the proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall. However, the Senate Majority leadership recently announced that action on the \$17 million border wall supplemental would be delayed.

At the same time Congressional leaders are working to complete the FY 2017 appropriations process, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are holding hearings and gathering member requests for the 12 appropriations bills for FY 2018, which starts on October 1, 2017. However, given the delay in completing the FY 2017 appropriations, the possible need to take action on the \$17 billion FY 2017 supplemental appropriations for the U.S.-Mexico border wall, and the anticipated release of a more complete FY 2018 Budget from the Trump administration, we expect that the FY 2018 appropriations process will be delayed.

### **Appropriations Request Related to the San Antonio Tricentennial**

The following language has been placed for consideration in the FY 2018 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill, in connection with the Federal Highway Administration's budget:

- "The [FHWA] Administrator shall work with state transportation agencies to prioritize funding and assistance for transportation and infrastructure projects in American cities that are marking bicentennial and tricentennial anniversaries in 2018."

In advocating for this provision, we have engaged with the City of New Orleans, LA, whose tricentennial will be marked in 2018. I will be meeting in New Orleans with the mayor's office during the week of April 24 to discuss these efforts. We are also coordinating our efforts with the cities of Pontiac, MI and Medina, OH, which are celebrating their bicentennials in 2018.

### **Status of Key Trump Administration Cabinet Nominees**

#### **Confirmed appointments:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Rex W. Tillerson – State                 | Jeff Sessions – Attorney General               |
| James N. Mattis – Defense                | John Kelly – Homeland Security                 |
| Ben Carson – Housing & Urban Development | David Shulkin – Veterans Affairs               |
| Elaine Chao – Transportation             | Ryan Zinke – Interior                          |
| Betsy DeVos – Education                  | Mike Pompeo – CIA Director                     |
| Steven Mnuchin – Treasury                | Scott Pruitt – Environmental Protection Agency |
| Rick Perry – Energy                      | Dan Coats – Director of National Intelligence  |
| Tom Price – Health and Human Services    | Linda McMahon – Small Business Admin           |
| Wilbur Ross – Commerce                   | Mick Mulvaney – White House OMB                |

#### **Pending appointments:**

Sonny Purdue – Secretary of Agriculture  
Alexander Acosta – Secretary of Labor  
Robert Lighthizer – U.S. Trade Representative

### Recent Federal Grant Announcements

The following are grant opportunities we have brought to the City of San Antonio's attention:

Agency: Department of Homeland Security - FEMA

Program: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$34,500,000

Maximum Grant Award: \$1,500,000

Closing Date for Applications: May 19, 2017

Program Description: The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. FEMA's Grants Programs Directorate administers the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants as part of the AFG Program. FP&S offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards ("Fire Prevention and Safety Activity") and (2) research and development activities aimed at improving firefighter safety ("Firefighter Safety Research and Development Activity").

Link to grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=293099>

Agency: DOT Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transport Administration

Program: Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$60,000,000

Maximum Grant Award: \$12,000,000

Closing Date for Applications: June 12, 2017

Program Description: DOT will award grants for development of model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. These model deployments are expected to provide benefits in the form of: reduced traffic-related fatalities and injuries; reduced traffic congestion and improved travel time reliability; reduced transportation-related emissions; optimized multimodal system performance; improved access to transportation alternatives, including for underserved populations; public access to real time integrated traffic, transit, and multimodal transportation information to make informed travel decisions; cost savings to transportation agencies, businesses, and the traveling public; or other benefits to transportation users and the general public.

Link to grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=293139>

I trust this report is of use to you.