

Legislative Update

February 28, 2025

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

Reconciliation Update

On February 26, House Republicans cleared the first hurdle in the reconciliation process by passing a budget resolution in a full House vote. The next step requires House committees to determine top-line spending figures, primarily focused on spending cuts. Once finalized, committees will compile their reports, vote them out, and send them to the House Budget Committee for reconciliation. The reconciled package will then return to the House floor for a final vote before moving to the Senate for approval. With step one complete, House Republicans must maintain momentum as the March 14 government funding deadline looms.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Case Study

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works met on February 26 to conduct a case study on the programs and opportunities created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The majority praised the formula funding that was allocated directly to state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which helped launch new infrastructure projects. Meanwhile, the minority focused on discretionary grant programs that directed investments toward underserved and minority communities, which have historically received less funding. Both sides expressed frustration over delays caused by extended permitting timelines in the U.S. and sought feedback on how Congress could address these challenges in the next surface authorization bill.

Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality

ACTION: Interim Final Rule; request for comments

SUMMARY: This interim final rule removes the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the Code of Federal Regulations. In addition, this interim final rule requests comments on this action and related matters to inform CEQ's decision making.

DATES: This interim rule is effective April 11, 2025. Comments are due by March 27, 2025.

[Federal Register :: Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations](#)

FROM AUSTIN

The House Transportation Committee will hold its first meeting of the legislative session on March 6 at 8 am. The Committee will meet to hear invited testimony from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

February Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) Hearing

The Texas Transportation Commission met on February 27. Routine information was presented for their approval, including highway letting contracts, rejection of building maintenance bids, State Infrastructure Bank loans, Federal and State aviation awards, and rule adoptions.

HIGHLIGHTED BILLS

Transit

HB 3187 Shaheen/SB 1557 Paxton – Relating to powers of regional transportation authorities. Would authorize municipalities within certain regional transportation authorities in Texas (DART) to utilize up

to 25 percent of sales and use tax for general mobility projects, modify the percentage of tax revenues that can be pledged for bond security, adjust tax rate options, and revise the conditions for elections to withdraw from the authority.

Revenue

SB 1555 Nichols – Relating to a grant program to fund certain railroad grade separation projects. Would establish a grant program to fund railroad grade separation projects in Texas to enhance public safety, economic development, and traffic reduction.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE HEARINGS

US HOUSE

- The House Aviation Subcommittee will meet on March 4 to conduct a hearing on air traffic control infrastructure and staffing.
- The House Communications and Technology Subcommittee will meet on March 5 to discuss some of the broadband programs implemented under the Biden administration.

TEXAS HOUSE

- The House Transportation Committee will meet on March 6. The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing for invited testimony only. Invited testimony will be heard from the following entities:
 - The Texas Department of Transportation
 - The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

RECENT COMMITTEE HEARINGS

TEXAS SENATE

- Senate Natural Resources met for an organizational hearing on Wednesday, February 26, and heard testimony from different agencies, including TCEQ and the Railroad Commission.

US SENATE

- On February 26, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee met to review programs and opportunities created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

US HOUSE

- On February 26, the House Energy and Commerce Committee met to discuss the programs and funding methodologies implemented by the Biden administration.