

Legislative Committee & Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair;
Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

1. Priorities:

- Continue to support Upper Ohio River Navigation System & Lower Mon Projects
- Oppose additional taxation, tolling, and lockage fees
- Fully utilize and draw down funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund
- ***For navigation projects, like the Montgomery L/D project, identified as “funded to completion” with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding, advocating that these projects should continue to be 100% funded from the General Treasury -- not cost-shared – and consistent with Congressional intent***

2. Congressional Appropriations

- Requests submitted to Congress for additional funding needed for the Lower Mon Project
- US House Appropriations Committee approved their bill on June 22nd that includes \$455 million for inland waterways construction and the US Senate Appropriations Committee passed their bill on July 20th that includes \$161 million for inland waterways
- Federal Fiscal Year 2024 began October 1st. Congress passed yet another short-term Continuing Resolution in mid-November to keep the government funded. Of particular importance to the inland waterways, **the Energy and Water appropriations bill which funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Civil Works Programs**, along with agriculture, housing, transportation, and veterans’ programs continue to operate under the previous year’s funding level until January 19th. All other agencies are extended through February 2nd.
- ***To keep current lock and dam infrastructure projects as well as those scheduled for future work on track, including both the Lower Mon and Upper Ohio Projects, it is extremely important that the FY24 appropriations for the Corps’ Civil Works Programs gets final approval in early 2024. Any further delay, or if Congress decides to pass a long-term CR, would be detrimental to these infrastructure modernization efforts.***

3. Water Resources Development Act of 2024

- Both the House and Senate have started to work on next WRDA bill – priorities will be:
 - IIJA projects should be 100% federal funded (as highlighted in Section 1 above)
 - No further reduction in the Allegheny River’s existing Levels of Service classification by the US Army Corps of Engineers

4. Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program - new application period opened on Dec. 8th and closes on January 12th <https://www.budget.pa.gov/Programs/RACP/Pages/Main%20Page.aspx>

5. PA DEP – Driving PA Forward On-Road Rebate Program currently open. Class 4-8 truck. Drayage trucks.

PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:

1. United States Marine Highway Program

- Expect next Marine Highway Notice Of Funding Opportunity in March 2024
- PortPitt will be holding a webinar on the Marine Highway Program and other grant programs sometime in early January

2. Past Events

- WCI’s 20th Annual Waterways Symposium in New Orleans on November 13th – 15th
- Lunch & Learn held in Brownsville on December 7th that included a tour of Heartland Fabrication
- US Army Corps’ Monongahela River Locks and Dam 3 Removal meetings both in the morning and evening of December 12th in Elizabeth for the Navigation Stakeholders and also the general public

END