
NUCA CAPITOL INSIDER

2020 Washington Summit Ahead

September 2020

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The Newsletter of the NUCA Governmental Affairs Department

Congress Returns Sept. 14 For Quick September Session



Both the House and Senate return for work on Monday, Sept. 14. They have much to

Infrastructure remains high on their public agenda, but action on any potential bill remains unresolved.

Both chambers are expected to leave Washington by Oct. 2 and head for the campaign trail for a final month of electioneering. They will return after the election for a lame-duck session, starting on Nov. 9.

NUCA's Washington Summit on Sept. 23 remains the best option for NUCA and industry members before the election to talk to their own federal lawmakers about the importance of their community's infrastructure and the potential for new

work on, including a possible fourth round of coronavirus relief legislation and a looming Sept. 30 deadline for an important surface transportation bill.

economic growth through fully funded projects.

One-Year Extension Sought By NUCA On FAST Act Reauthorization

Facing an expiration of the nation's surface transportation law on Sept. 30, NUCA and 88 other organizations sent an urgent letter to Congress on Sept. 9 asking for at least a one-year extension of the FAST Act.

Our association also asked for emergency federal funding of state DOTs, who have already delayed or cancelled \$8 billion in projects due to revenue declines this year.

Read NUCA's letter here.

NUCA Thanks Our Many National Partners For Their Generous Support Of The 2020 Washington Summit

2020 Washington Summit Schedule

Week of Sept. 14: NUCA will release on our social media and **Summit webpage** pre-recorded videos with top Congressional lawmakers and industry leaders discussing our key industry issues. We invite you to listen to them before the Summit.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 9:00—10:00amET. Washington Summit welcome, keynote speakers, and a concise legislative briefing. *Join us via Webex invitation.*

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10:00am to 4:30pmET. Virtual Capitol Hill visits, arranged by your Chapters. These online meetings will be scheduled at various times during the day, lasting about 15-20 minutes. *Your Chapter will send you the meeting link.*

(Virtual) Washington Summit: Sept. 23 -- Are You Registered?

NUCA's 2020 Washington Summit is less than two weeks away! Capitol Hill is closed to the public because of the pandemic, but your lawmaker's offices are open and welcoming a meeting with your Chapter and you via your computer.

Register for the Summit here.

Plan now to attend the Summit virtually via your computer on Wednesday, September 23. Once NUCA receives your registration, your NUCA Chapter will be arranging the virtual Congressional office visits on that day and provide you information about our top issues. You will be able to discuss these issues accompanied by other local and state utility construction industry members with your Federal lawmakers and staffs, right from your own office.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 5:00pmET:

Wrap up, feedback, and comments from participants. Join NUCA CEO Doug Carlson and Chapter staff via Webex for a wrap up of the days events. *Join us via Webex invitation.*

PPP Loan Forgiveness Could Result in Bigger Tax Bills

Unless Congress intervenes and passes legislation in this Congress or next year, the IRS will not allow businesses to write off wages and rent paid for with Paycheck Protection Program funds, something many contractors may be unaware of.

More here.

Our industry's top issues will be on the discussion table at this year's Summit:

- Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Investment
- Broadband Deployment
- Pipeline Safety and Damage Prevention

We've set up our **Summit webpages** to include all of our videos, fact sheets, and schedule. But most of the Summit will be held via the Webex Meetings platform, so **after you register** we will provide a link for you to click on and use for the NUCA Summit events on Sept. 23. Your Chapter will also send you a separate link for your lawmakers' meetings.

For 2020, Summit registration is free to NUCA members. The tentative Summit schedule is now posted on the **NUCA Summit webpage**. We hope that you'll be able to attend this unique advocacy experience.

Coronavirus Relief Package Stalls in Senate Again

Senate Republicans proposed in early September a new, smaller package of coronavirus aid as talks with House Democrats remained at a standstill. No progress was made on a further relief package during the August recess, so this offer by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) was thought to be a start to a potential piecemeal approach to further economic relief.

However, the Senate (in session by itself) on a mostly party-line 52-47 **vote** on Sept. 10 scuttled that GOP attempt, sending both sides back to the negotiation tables.

This GOP bill did include some coronavirus liability protections for businesses and additional small business relief funds, but did not contain any additional aid for local governments to combat the economic damage, such state highway funding for existing and scheduled projects. An earlier Senate GOP bill (HEALS Act) contained a number of pro-industry provisions, such as coronavirus loan reforms, tax credits for employee testing and workplace cleaning, and \$190 billion in additional stimulus.

The Democrats, who passed their \$3 trillion HEROES Act package back in May, are seeking about \$2 trillion in coronavirus relief, with Republicans still skeptical of any packages above \$1 trillion.

With elections just 50 days away, any further action on a relief bill may be held off until the post-election lame duck session.

Government Shutdown Avoided For Now

An informal agreement between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made in late August to avert a government shutdown seems to be holding.

The continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government past Sept. 30 would not include any controversial policy riders, making its passage much easier.

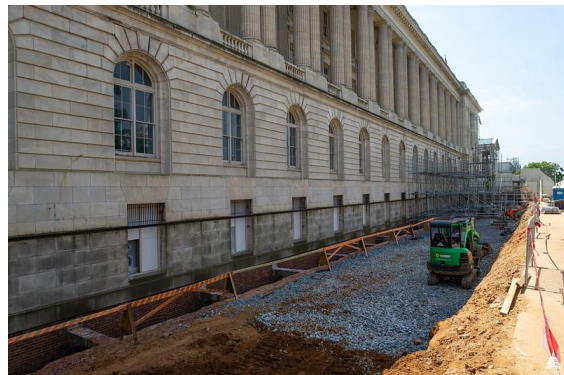
The only sticking point seems to be when the CR would expire, with Republicans seeking a mid-December date, and the Democrats holding out for early 2021.

More here.

NUCA Capital Insider: Your Industry News Link To Capitol Hill

Welcome to the second edition of the new *NUCA Capital Insider* newsletter! We decided to expand the reach of the former *Political Insiders* newsletter (now discontinued) because the information found within that publication was too important to limit it to just the members involved in NUCA's governmental affairs committees and advocacy programs.

The complex work of NUCA's governmental affairs program affects the business of every NUCA member. Our influence on Capitol Hill and in the federal regulatory agencies is only possible through the strength of the association, and through our partnership with relevant business coalitions who share similar interests and concerns.



The House's Cannon HOB undergoing restoration, 2020. Photos: AoC.

We hope you find its information demonstrating your NUCA membership investment directly working for you each day in Washington, D.C., looking out for your business's interests. NUCA deeply appreciates your support.

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