

FY 2021 Appropriations

Senate Appropriators will begin FY 2021 markups the week of June 22. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to markup the FY 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill on Thursday, July 2. In an effort to speed up the process, Senate Appropriations Subcommittees have been given the option to poll their members and avoid a full markup and send their bills directly to the full committee.

The House Appropriations Subcommittees have targeted the week of July 6th to being markups with full committee markups expected to convene immediately after.

With Congress consumed with COVID-19 relief and elections, a continuing resolution (CR) and delay of the final spending bills is highly likely.

COVID-19

Supplemental IV: Bipartisan negotiations have yet to begin as the May jobs numbers have taken some pressure off Congress. Leader McConnell will likely wait to bring another COVID-19 supplemental to the floor until late July. If we consider how protracted the debate on the last bill was, negotiations will likely use August recess and party conventions as a backstop, to provide adequate pressure to move through the House and Senate.

While there's a consensus among Republicans and the White House around the next bill totaling (?) around \$1 trillion, there's nowhere near bipartisan consensus on what will be contained in that bill. In his testimony on the Hill this week, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin asked Congress to pump more money into the economy, emphasizing the need for economic stimulus. It \$1 trillion may be seen better as the floor for the next bill rather than its ceiling. Additionally, Republicans continue to push for liability protections and are working on strategies to combat the incentive structure of the federal boost to unemployment insurance. While the Heroes Act will not be taken up by the Senate (as Sen. McConnell has indicated), it can serve as an outline of Democratic priorities. Heroes Act text (as of 5/12/2020) [here](#). Section by section [here](#). One pager [here](#). Manager's amendment [here](#). House Rules Committee report [here](#).

Infrastructure

The House of Representatives has begun development of legislation such as a highway bill and water resources bill which could be components of an infrastructure bill. Similar legislation has also been developed in corresponding committees of the Senate. It remains unclear how these individual bills will move in their respective bodies, whether they will be the vehicle for an economic stimulus bill, or whether they may be combined with other COVID-19 response legislation.

It is our understanding that APLU's update of the deferred maintenance study is ongoing and we also understand that a request for impact stories from universities is under development.