

Senate Approves Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) by a vote of 69-30. The legislation would provide \$550 billion in new funding for infrastructure projects over the next five years including investments in roads, bridges, ports, rail, waterways, airports, public transit, broadband and environmental remediation. The legislation contains several NDA-backed provisions that would benefit the demolition industry including reforms to streamline and expedite the federal permitting and environmental review processes, increased funding to cleanup Brownfield and Superfund sites, and no additional tax increases on small businesses.

The legislation now moves to the House of Representatives where it remains unclear whether the bill has enough support to pass the chamber in its current form. Over the next several weeks, NDA will continue its advocacy on behalf of the demolition industry's infrastructure priorities with key House members and legislative committees. NDA will also continue to stress the importance of rejecting any new tax increases on small businesses in both the bipartisan infrastructure bill and a potential budget reconciliation bill.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – Key Provisions

- **Physical Infrastructure Investments:** Includes \$550 billion for new infrastructure projects over the next 5 years:
 - Roads and bridges: \$110 billion;
 - Passenger and freight rail: \$66 billion;
 - Public transit: \$39 billion;
 - Airports: \$25 billion;
 - Ports and waterways: 17 billion;
 - Electric vehicles: \$15 billion;
 - Road safety: \$11 billion; and
 - Power infrastructure: \$73 billion;
 - Broadband infrastructure: \$65 billion;
 - Water infrastructure: \$55 billion;
 - Resiliency and western water storage: \$50 billion
- **Environmental Remediation:** Includes \$21 billion for the cleanup of Brownfield and Superfund sites and other remediation projects.
- **Federal Permitting and Environmental Reviews:** Includes reforms to streamline and expedite the federal permitting and environmental review processes.
- **No Tax Increases:** Does not include any new tax increases on individuals or small businesses.

Senate Approves FY 2022 Budget Resolution

On Wednesday, the Senate voted to pass a [\\$3.5 trillion budget resolution](#) on a party-line vote of 50-49. The resolution is the first step in the budget reconciliation process which directs committees to begin drafting a bill that could spend up to \$3.5 trillion on several legislative initiatives supported by President Biden and congressional Democrats.

The resolution sets the top-line spending levels for each committee and includes a series of [legislative recommendations](#) for the committees to consider as they draft the bill. The Senate Budget Committee is requesting that the committees examine provisions relating to climate change, housing, education, immigration, child care, health care, paid leave and other social programs. To offset the cost of the legislation, Democrats have instructed the tax-writing committees to examine tax increases on individuals making over \$400,000 per year and corporations. It is important to note that these are just recommendations and it is unclear which provisions will have enough support to be included in the final reconciliation bill.

The House of Representatives announced yesterday that they will be returning early from recess on Aug. 23 to vote on the budget resolution. Once the resolution is approved by the House, Congress can get to work on drafting a final bill for consideration later this fall. Budget reconciliation bills only require a simple majority of the vote in both the House and Senate for passage. Due to concerns among moderate Democrats, the final bill is expected to be narrower in scope than the \$3.5 trillion proposed level.

NDA is closely monitoring the budget reconciliation process and will continue to weigh in with Congress to advocate for initiatives that boost the demolition industry while strongly urging them to reject tax increases and other harmful provisions that would hurt small businesses.

OSHA Releases Small Business Safety and Health Handbook

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently updated their workplace safety and health handbook for small businesses. The [Small Business Safety and Health Handbook](#) summarizes the benefits of an effective safety and health program, provides self-inspection checklists for employers to identify workplace hazards, and reviews helpful workplace safety and health resources for small businesses.

More than 20 states and territories operate their own OSHA-approved State Plans. A list of states that operate their own State Plans can be found on [OSHA's website](#). While the safety and health compliance requirements in these State Plans may differ in some respects from federal OSHA requirements, employers in all states may benefit from using this handbook.

Please note that this handbook is a general guide to safety in the workplace and employers should not use it to assess compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) or federal OSHA standards. This handbook does not provide legal interpretations of the requirements in OSHA standards, nor does it create any additional compliance requirements for employers.

SBA Announces National Small Business Virtual Summit

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently announced its 2021 National Small Business Week Virtual Summit for September 13-15, 2021. The event will include educational webinars, updates on resources for small businesses, and a networking chat room for business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Interested members can [register here](#).