
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Reform

By a vote of 69 to 30, including 19 Republicans and all 50 Democrats, the U.S. Senate passed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, on August 10, 2021. Following passage, the proposed legislation was sent to the House of Representatives where it is expected to pass without amendments. The Speaker of the House put a pause on House passage of the bill, which is expected to have a vote on final passage before the end of the year. This legislation differs from the “Build Back Better” infrastructure bill proposed by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

The 2,702-page bipartisan bill contains just \$550 billion in new spending. The \$1.2 trillion figure comes from including additional funding normally allocated each year for highways and other infrastructure projects but was delayed for almost decades. New spending includes:

\$110 billion for roads and bridges. In addition to construction and repair, the funding also helps pay for transportation research at universities, funding for Puerto Rico’s highways, and “congestion relief” in American cities.

\$66 billion for railroads. Funding includes upgrades and maintenance of America’s passenger rail system and freight rail safety, but nothing for high-speed rail.

\$65 billion for the power grid. The bill would fund updates to power lines and cables, as well as provide money to prevent hacking of the power grid. Clean energy funding is also included.

\$65 billion for broadband. Includes funding to expand broadband in rural areas and in low-income communities. Approximately \$14 billion of the total would help reduce Internet bills for low-income citizens.

\$55 billion for water infrastructure. This funding includes \$15 billion for lead pipe replacement, \$10 billion for chemical cleanup, and money to provide clean drinking water in tribal communities.

\$47 billion for cybersecurity and climate change. The Resilience Fund will protect infrastructure from cybersecurity attacks and address flooding, wildfires, coastal erosion, and droughts along with other extreme weather events.

\$39 billion for public transit. Funding here provides for upgrades to public transit systems nationwide. The allocation also includes money to create new bus routes and help make public transit more accessible to seniors and disabled Americans.

\$25 billion for airports. This allocation provides funding for major upgrades and expansions at U.S. airports. Air traffic control towers and systems would receive \$5 billion of the total for upgrades.

\$21 billion for the environment. These monies would be used to clean up superfund and brownfield sites, abandoned mines, and old oil and gas wells.

\$17 billion for ports. Half of the funds in this category would go to the Army Corps of Engineers for port infrastructure. Additional funds would go to the Coast Guard, ferry terminals, and reduction of truck emissions at ports.

\$11 billion for safety. Appropriations here are to address highway, pedestrian, pipeline, and other safety areas with highway safety getting the bulk of the funding.

\$8 billion for western water infrastructure. Ongoing drought conditions in the western half of the country will be addressed through investments in water treatment, storage, and reuse facilities.

\$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations. The Biden administration asked for this funding to build significantly more charging stations for electric vehicles across the nation.

\$7.5 billion for electric school buses. With an emphasis on bus fleet replacement in low-income, rural, and tribal communities, this funding is expected to allow those communities to convert to zero-emission buses.

The Bi-Partisan Infrastructure bill will not come to the floor if there are not enough votes for the far-reaching Build Back Better bill, which is attached to the FY 2022 budget resolution.

Build Back Better Plan

The broader “Build Back Better” bill is perhaps the keystone of President Joe Biden’s agenda. This bill is attached to the budget resolution ensures it only needs a simple majority in the Senate for final passage. It will be considered in the House first, and while it initially had \$3.5 trillion in funding, the final amount is expected to be lower due to opposition from Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Krysten Sinema (D-AZ). No Republican in the Senate has issued support for the Build Back Better plan, which has:

\$135 billion for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Funding to be used to address forest fires, reduce carbon emissions, and address drought concerns.

\$332 billion for the Banking Committee. Including investments in public housing, the Housing Trust Fund, housing affordability, and equity and community land trusts.

\$198 billion for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This would develop clean energy.

\$67 billion for the Environment and Public Works Committee. These monies would fund low-income solar and other climate-friendly technologies.

\$1.8 trillion for the Finance Committee. This part of the bill is for investments in working families, the elderly, and the environment. It includes a tax cut for Americans making less than \$400,000 a year, lowering the price of prescription drugs and ensuring that wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

\$726 billion for the Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions Committee. This addresses universal pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, childcare for working families, increased funding for [HBCUs](#), and an expansion of the [Pell Grant](#) – by \$1500 -- for higher education.

\$37 billion for the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. This would electrify the federal vehicle fleet, electrify and rehab federal buildings, improve cybersecurity infrastructure, reinforce border management, invest in green-materials procurement, and invest in resilience.

\$107 billion for the Judiciary Committee. These funds address establishing "lawful permanent status for qualified immigrants."

\$20.5 billion for the Indian Affairs Committee. This addresses Native American health programs and facilities, education programs and facilities, housing programs, energy programs, resilience and climate programs, BIA programs and facilities, Native language programs, and the Native Civilian Climate Corps.

\$25 billion for the Small Business Committee. This provides for small business access to credit, investment, and markets.

\$18 billion for the Veterans Affairs Committee. This funds upgrades to veteran facilities.

\$83 billion for the Commerce Committee. This goes to investments in technology, transportation, research, manufacturing, and economic development. It provides funding for coastal resiliency and healthy oceans investments, including the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund and the National Science Foundation research and technology directorate.

Debt Limit and FY21 Funding Bills

Amid all the rancor over infrastructure are the twin matters of the [debt ceiling](#) and government funding. A shut-down of the federal government was avoided by hours, and the Senate Majority Leader has already said the Democrats are going to have to go it alone when it comes to raising the debt limit and, probably, the annual funding bills as well. If Congress does not

agree to the spending bills by December 3, 2021, the government could come to a complete halt. The debt limit expires as of that day as well.

These events are related because Republicans have said they will not vote to raise the debt ceiling again. The debt limit will, in all likelihood, be attached to the Budget Reconciliation bill and handled in a separate vote. A continuing resolution to the budget will likely be offered again, delaying an ultimate decision until January 2022 or, more likely, February.

\$5 million Rare Earths from US Extractions Grant Award

Wayne State University's Department of Chemistry, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), received a total of \$5 million dollars to identify, develop and recover rare earth elements from domestic sources. Wayne State University will receive over \$3.5 million of this total, and the collaboration with the USACE began September 30, 2021. This grant was won through the aggressive outreach of the Washington, DC office, working with the Michigan delegation.

Wayne State University has become one of the top experts in figuring out how to separate coal ash, and brown fields, reclaiming clean water and soil. The by-product of this process results in "heavy metals" – rare ingredients and material used, among other things, for satellites, smart phones, flat/touch screens, etc. China currently controls 80% of the world's access to heavy metals, which are also key for a wide array of military applications. This program will clean our water and soil from contaminants, and allow the domestic sourcing of these rare and important materials.

An official ribbon-cutting is expected before the end of the year.

STATE AFFAIRS

FY 22 Budget Update

Governor Whitmer signed the Higher Education and General Omnibus budgets a mere days before the start of the Fiscal Year. This budget cycle presented both opportunities and challenges for Wayne State University, including a push to move public university funding to a per pupil-esque methodology. That formulaic approach, which lacked enough nuance to recognize the needs of Wayne State students, would have resulted in upwards of \$12 million in losses for WSU. The hard work of our Warriors through grassroots efforts, leadership lead conversations with decision makers, and constant communications with legislators and staff regarding the impact models could have on WSU, resulted in a budget that fully funded universities. There is more work to be done as we continue to ensure our elected officials are equipped with the information necessary to support increased funding for public higher education.

The Higher Education Budget contained a total of \$2.2 billion for Fiscal Year '22 and \$70 million for Fiscal Year '21 for universities and community colleges. Overall, that investment reflects a

nearly 5% increase in funding, a 1% increase in operations funding for FY 22 and 3.9% increase for FY 21. The final budget did include a 4.2% or \$490 tuition restraint. Wayne State University receives \$205,496,400 in FY 22 funding. Of that, \$202,996,700 is base funding, \$2,030,000 is one-time supplemental funding (1% increase), and \$469,700 reflects costs incurred under the North American Indian Tuition Waiver. In addition to the FY 22 funding noted, the Conference Report includes one-time funding for FY 21 of \$7,962,600 (3.9% increase).

In addition to funding we receive in the Higher Education budget, Wayne State University receives several important funding pieces through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services budget. For FY 22 the following items were funded in the DHHS budget:

- **Frontline Strong Together:** \$2.5 million in funding for first responder post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions. WSU's Frontline Strong Together program, which is run by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, collaborates with the first responder community on the development and implementation of interventions and supports for individuals and their families who are in need.
- **MiDOCS:** \$6.4 million GF/GP resulting in a \$24.2 million gross level of support for MiDOCS. This investment reflects full funding and a \$1.3 million increase over FY 20-21. WSU's advocacy for an increase in funding was very successful and results in the ability to build out a more robust cohort and to fulfill our goal of ultimately getting to 50 residents per year trained.
- **Lycaki-Young Funding:** \$5.6 million in funding for the Lycaki-Young Program which recognizes Detroit's need for behavioral health programming following the closure of the Lafayette Clinic in the early 1990s. These funds, which go to the WSU School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, support programming in Substance Abuse & Addiction, Child & Adolescent Treatment, Education and Training (for residents), ER & Hospitalization Diversions, and Clinical Transformational Initiatives.
- **Poison Center Funding:** \$1,121,400 in funding was included for the Poison Center. This funding, and its associated federal match money, directly supports the statewide activities of the Poison Center at WSU.
- ***NEW* Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners:** \$1.6 million for a 4-year pilot project to increase the number of advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners to expand access to mental health services. This funding is directed to the WSU College of Nursing.

Finally, the FY 22 budget included 175 "Enhancement Grants" and WSU was successful in achieving one with funding for the **National De-Escalation Training Center**. The National De-Escalation Training Center at Wayne State University received \$150,000 to support training local law enforcement officers. This funding is allocated as a one-time enhancement grant to allow for members of the law enforcement community to access our training free of cost.

Supplemental Budgets, ARPA Funds, and FY 23 Budget Update

While the FY 22 budget has barely kicked off, we're well into more budget discussions. The state has seen an unprecedented amount of federal dollars as well as higher than anticipated

state revenues. The funding available for investment is large scale, and every entity is vying for a portion. WSU is actively engaged with legislative leaders to discuss opportunities to support our mission through additional state dollars. In terms of timeline, there are several years to spend ARPA funds and legislators have yet to agree on when they want to expend these funds. It is likely that we will see rolling investments categorized into “buckets” for the next several months and well into 2022. Currently, some of the focus areas of investment include Infrastructure, Health Care, and Workforce; however, that list is far from exhaustive and will continue to evolve.

Concurrently, we have begun early discussions around the development of the FY 23 budget as well as early advocacy. The Governor will issue her Executive Recommendation in early spring for 2023 and discussions with certainly accelerate at that point. House members, including Appropriations Chair Thomas Albert, still support some type of per pupil or fiscal year equated student model, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and Community Colleges will be getting a new Chair with Representative Huizenga departing for the state Senate in January. While our Senate Champions remain unchanged, many of last year’s budget discussions will be revised as we head into the new year.

Legislation

WSU DGCA continues to monitor state legislation and regulations that could impact our students, our faculty, our community, and our ability to carry out our mission. When formulating a university position, we work with internal subject matter experts to both craft the best position and to provide feedback to legislators. Further, we work collaboratively with both our URC partners and all 15 public universities to leverage our collective positions and create favorable outcomes as often as possible. We are currently monitoring, and actively engaging, on several pieces of legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- House Bill 4512 (Hornberger) clarifying the removal procedures for University board members. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- House Bill 4615 (Marino) requiring candidates for university boards to file a financial disclosure. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- Senate Joint Resolution F (McBroom) requiring university board meetings to have open meetings. This is a constitutional amendment proposal requiring a heightened 2/3 vote of both chambers before being put onto the ballot during the next general election for approval by the people. WSU is monitoring this initiative.
- Senate Bills 637 (Chang) and 638 (Outman) create important opportunities for co-response models and community crisis responses teams to actively engage in the criminal legal process, potentially diverting individuals who would be better served through behavioral health interventions from the traditional criminal justice system. This legislation was actively informed by WSU team members and the WSU Center for Behavioral Health and Justice. WSU is supportive of these bills.
- Senate Bill 582 (Wojno) would prohibit a public body, including a university, from carrying out research involving canines. Legislation that aims to restrict, or arbitrarily

eliminate the ability to conduct potentially life-saving research, is not something WSU supports.

- House Bill 5183 (Tate) which moves up the effective date of legislation signed last term allowing student athletes to be compensated for their name, image, or likeness. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- Four Year Community College Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs. WSU is anticipating the reintroduction of legislation that failed last term which would have allowed for a community college to offer a 4-year bachelor of science in nursing degree program. WSU opposes this legislation.

Appointments

WSU DGCA monitors and engages in the Gubernatorial Appointment process to ensure that Warrior voices are at the tables where decisions are being made. Recent successes include:

Developmental Disabilities Council

Sharon Milberger, Sc.D, is the director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute and MI-LEND at Wayne State University. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan, and a Master of Science in Physiology and Doctor of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Milberger is reappointed to represent a university center for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research, and service, for a term commencing October 15, 2021 and expiring September 30, 2025.

Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science

Mark T. Evely, Ph.D., is the chair of the Wayne State University Department of Applied Health Sciences and an assistant professor and program director for the mortuary science program. Dr. Evely is also a funeral director for the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors and Harry J. Will Funeral Home. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mortuary Science and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Wayne State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Dr. Evely is appointed to represent professionals for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2025. He succeeds Kathleen Barone whose term expires June 30, 2021.

WSU Student Art in the Legislature

Wayne State students submitted pieces to the annual Art in the Legislature show, which showcases student art from all 15 public universities throughout the state Capitol Complex. This year four WSU students were selected for showcasing, including, Tia M. Nichols, Yan Zhang, Ephemera Fae, and Cara Marie Young. Their artwork will be on display for the next year.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MIDOCs

WSU and other members of the MIDOCs consortium had its third cohort of residents start in July. As a reminder, this program is funded through direct state appropriations, which are then leveraged to receive federal dollars. The federal government approved the state's plan of how it will use those funds and how we will flow the money to the residency programs. The first cohort contains eight residents, the second cohort contains 24, and the third contains 20. The state appropriated our full request of \$6.4 million for FY22. This will allow us to host 24 new residents beginning next July.

Residencies include psychiatry, family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, and general surgery.

Lycaki-Young Fund

The Lycaki-Young fund was first introduced in the mid-1990s. Since that time, WSU has received more than \$100 million in state funds to support care for the mentally ill and those affected by substance abuse. WSU has been a leader in providing critically important services to those affected in Wayne County and beyond. For example, we host one of the largest Methadone clinics in the country. The state appropriated our full request of \$5.6 million for the program for FY22.

The Michigan Poison Center

The Michigan Poison Center (PC) receives more than 65,000 calls per year related to emergencies (most involving children). Tenet Corporation and the DMC hosted the Center for more than 60 years, but it no longer fits into their scope of services plan. This is a significant opportunity for Wayne State to demonstrate our public health mission and expertise across the entire state. The Poison Center serves all counties in Michigan. The PC continues to play an active role in outreach on the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, they are focusing educational efforts on opioid overdoses and lead poisoning across the state. The state appropriated \$1.2 million for the program for FY22. We are actively seeking opportunities to increase funding in future years.

Opioid Task Force:

The Opioid Task Force had its quarterly meeting in September. Topics of discussion included providing feedback to opioid use disorder-related legislation and the NaloxBox Pilot Program.

As a reminder, the Task Force has identified a NaloxBox Pilot Program as a main priority. The Pilot Program would place doses of Naloxone around midtown in weatherproof boxes for individuals to access to reverse an overdose. The Pilot Project has been approved by the

School of Medicine and the Task Force is in the planning stages. The Task Force is awaiting shipment of the boxes that will contain the Naloxone and then installation plans will begin.

School of Medicine Engagement with Community Leaders:

Dean Schweitzer is conducting meetings with community leaders and influencers in Detroit. The meetings are introductory in nature and for the Dean to form connections with key contacts. Thus far, we have focused on scheduling meetings with community health and wellness related organizations, women's health and LGBTQ primary care organizations, Latin, Arab, and Chaldean-American organizations, and religious leaders.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

President Wilson & SoM Dean Schweitzer Meet with Clergy Leadership

DGCA coordinated a meeting with President Wilson and SOM Dean Schweitzer with several of Detroit's clergy leaders to present the WSU SOM's plan to attract and graduate more urban students from the SoM. The group also was introduced to the new SoM Vice Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Donovan Roy. This was the second quarterly meeting with this group and Dean Schweitzer. Two are WSU graduates and all serve as community ambassadors for WSU.

Moving forward, the clergy leadership group will meet with WSU Provost, Deans and others to hear about WSU's work and how they can assist from a community outreach perspective.

Community Support and Engagement

Woodbridge Citizens' Council Meeting

The Division of Government and Community Affairs (DGCA) and WSU Parking presented to the Woodbridge Citizens' Council's (WCC) monthly meeting via Zoom. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the opening of the new athletic and parking plan. As follow up to that meeting, DGCA hosted a meeting with the WCC's executive committee to learn about the city's residential parking pass to help alleviate neighborhood on-street parking during WSU events when people choose to not use the more than ample paid parking allowed in the WSU surface lots and structures.

Additionally, we were very pleased to offer 250 free tickets to the community for two upcoming football games courtesy of DTE Energy.

Volunteer Opportunities

DGCA often has volunteer opportunities for WSU-sponsored events or events held by our community partners. WSU students were able to volunteer for the Detroit Block Party at West Riverfront Park in September and the Detroit Harvest Fest along the Dequindre Cut in October.

Sponsorship

DGCA is pleased to represent WSU at various community-based events supporting non-profit events and activities. In the past few months WSU has supported the 66th Annual NAACP Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner, the SER METRO Annual Community Awards and the Black United Fund's 50th Anniversary Event, to name a few.

The WSU Warrior Balloon (better known as Kermit the Frog with a W on his chest) will appear as the Thanksgiving Day Parade returns to its live procession down Woodward Avenue. WSU is sponsoring the event via use of our Structure 5 for volunteer parking, the FAB atrium for volunteer check in and the Student Center Building first floor lounge area as a performer transition/warming station.

Other Activity

DGCA hosted 50 guests for the opening of the athletic arena for the WSU v. U of M basketball game. Among the guests are two congresswomen, two state representatives, the Deputy Mayor, 10 community leaders, and three representatives of Woodbridge Community Council.

City of Detroit 2021 General Election

The City of Detroit General Election took place on November 2, 2021. The current two vacancies on the City Council due to resignations will be filled by Latisha Johnson in District 4 and Fred Durhal III in District 7. Gabriella Santiago-Romero successfully ran for the open seat in District 6 and new-comer Angela Whitfield Calloway surprisingly upset the District 2 incumbent and former State Representative Mary Waters defeated incumbent Janee' Ayers for one of the two at-large seats. Former Senator Coleman A. Young won the other at-large seat. Finally, President Pro Tem Sheffield ran unopposed for District 5 as did Scott Benson for District 5.

Mayor Duggan was easily elected to his third term.

MLK Tribute Returns

Not only is the WSU Annual MLK Tribute returning as an in-person event in 2022, it is returning home to Wayne State. The 2022 event will celebrate Dr. King, while celebrating Wayne State as well. It will be held on Friday, January 14, 10am-Noon, in the Lear Auditorium at the Mike Ilitch School of Business.

Our keynote speaker is Detroit native and Wayne State University's 2021 Distinguished Alum, **Christopher W. Wilson**, Director of Experience Design and African American History Program at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/profile/539>

Our host and moderator is **Lauren Sanders**, Detroit native, Wayne State alum, former WDIV weekend morning news anchor and current host and facilitator of numerous corporate events and programming.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauren-sanders-5580a016>.

Our Black and Traditional National Anthems will be sung by Detroit's own Ms. **Zania Alake'**, a 2021 finalist on The Voice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8HiVBIM0C4>

<https://flyworldinfo.com/zania-alake/>

The WSU Chorale, led by Detroit native and WSU Music Professor, Dr. **Brandon Waddles**, will perform a special selection chosen specifically to honor Dr. King's legacy.

<https://music.wayne.edu/profile/hf8691>

As in previous years, we will honor an individual and an organization with the Arthur L. Johnson Community Leadership Award. Dr. Johnson, like Dr. King, was a true civil rights leader who dedicated his life to fairness and justice

<https://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/race-and-remembrance>

More will be added to the program before it is finalized.