Infrastructure Week might *finally* be on the horizon. After a long two days, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure marked up H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act. Democrats are fast-tracking this bill, with Speaker Pelosi already announcing a timeline for a floor vote. Bloomberg’s Erik Wasson reports, “The House is scheduled to vote on the plan before the July 4 recess, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that she hopes bipartisan interest in rebuilding crumbling roads, bridges, water systems and other infrastructure prevails over the political inertia that has stalled action on the long-discussed issue.”

Administration officials and congressional leaders are still plotting out the next move for coronavirus assistance. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will stop considering applications on June 30, but there is still need for relief. POLITICO’s Zachary Warmbrodt writes, “While there is still $130 billion left unspent in the so-called Paycheck Protection Program, lobbyists say that’s because there were onerous restrictions — chiefly that businesses are prohibited from borrowing a second time, so if they're out of money, they're out of luck. Others say that many potential borrowers were largely left out of the process, including minority employers, who often don’t have relationships with bankers.”

But the good news is that both parties are considering a long-term solution. “There is emerging bipartisan support for new government-backed lending that would last much longer than lawmakers first envisioned with the Paycheck Protection Program, which was designed to delay mass layoffs in the early days of the pandemic,” reports Warmbrodt. AEM is working closely with the Federal Reserve, the Treasury Department, and the White House to make sure that existing relief funds are applied to support our member companies.

Here are some of today’s other developments:

**US Trade Rep Lighthizer Talks Trade on Capitol Hill**
Ambassador Lighthizer testified before both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday. His testimony covered a wide verity of trade policies impacting the U.S. economy in the House Ways and Means Hearing and the Senate Finance hearing is expected to be similar. Topics included USMCA labor obligations in Mexico, future U.K. and Kenya trade agreements, U.S. agricultural market access, WTO reform, North American supply chain disruptions, U.S. tariffs on EU products related to the ongoing WTO Airbus- Boeing Dispute, and challenges in the U.S. – China trade relationship including Hong
Kong. [Click here](#) to watch the House Ways and Means hearing, or [here](#) for the Senate Finance hearing.

**Surface Transportation Bill Moves to House Floor for Vote Before July 4 Recess**

After two grueling days the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure completed its markup of H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act. More than 200 amendments were offered and ultimately, the amended bill passed out of Committee just after 11:00 p.m. Thursday night. Several times throughout the markup, Republicans decried their lack of inclusion in the bill creation process and the STARTER Act, the minority replacement bill, failed in a vote of 25 to 35 in a largely party line vote. [Click here](#) to watch the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup.

It was announced that the INVEST in America Act will form the base of a broader, $1.5 trillion infrastructure package that includes not only surface transportation funding but also schools, housing, broadband access, and other topics. The package will retain the H.R. 2 bill number but will be called the Moving Forward Act. At this time, it is unclear what the funding mechanism for this broad package will be, however, we can probably expect an answer soon, as House leadership has indicated a desire to pass the legislation before the July 4 recess.

**Senate Approves Legislation to Address National Park System Infrastructure Backlog**

This week the Senate passed H.R. 1957 (originally S. 3422), the legislative vehicle for the Great American Outdoors Act by a margin of 73-25. The legislation provides $9.5 billion over 5 years to address the $20 billion maintenance backlog on public lands. [AEM previously joined a letter in support of the legislation prior to the change in bill number](#).

**State Activities**

AEM has been monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure and reopening orders. We are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry is establishing health and safety protocols to protect both employees and customers.

Notable for today’s update is that the Governor of Virginia announced the resumption of limited operations for certain businesses in the coming days. The Governors of Arizona, California, and Oregon have published important guidance for businesses.

**Now that state governments are transitioning into re-opening strategies, we are providing a new U.S. map showing when state shelter-in-place orders and stay-at-home advisories expire.**
Canada Activities
Ottawa is facing $256-billion deficit before latest CERB extension. Parliament’s spending watchdog released his latest assessment of the Canadian economy and federal finances Thursday, one day after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau insisted the economic landscape during the pandemic remains too unstable for Ottawa to release a 2020 federal budget or a full fiscal update.

Today’s updates from the provinces include:

- **Newfoundland and Labrador**: Dwight Ball marks last day in legislature as Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador after 4 ½ years in the position. The election to replace him is expected to conclude on Aug. 4.
- **Ontario**: The provincial government is providing employers with a new general workplace guide, which will help them develop a safety plan to better protect workers, customers and clients. The new downloadable toolkit offers tips on how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 as more people get back on the job during Stage 2 of the reopening of the province. The new guide can be found here.

We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on AEM’s COVID-19 resources page. You can also click here for the latest updates from Ottawa and all the provinces.

Do you have questions or need to get a hold of AEM’s Advocacy Team? E-mail our Response Team at responseteam@aem.org with any questions or feedback.
As always, if you have any questions about AEM’s ongoing efforts, need assistance with a specific issue, or would like to share how the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic is impacting your business, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at keideberg@aem.org.

Best,
-Kip

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