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### WHAT'S THAT TICKING SOUND?

Oh, it's the sound of time slowly slipping away from us as the days tick away on the Congressional calendar. At this point, Appropriators have the FY24 slaughter in the rearview mirror and have turned attention to the Administration's FY25 budget proposal. With many stakeholders working to pick-up the pieces and catch-up, strategies are starting to come into focus. The proverbial gorilla in the room is a Disaster Relief Fund careening toward a cliff and likely \$6-7 billion shortfall in the next couple of months. This week, Secretary Mayorkas faced two different hearings to discuss that FY25 budget proposal for DHS. He referred to the Department as "perennially underfunded," and in this election year, it's little surprise he took some heat regarding ongoing events at the Southwest Border.

Senate Authorizers showed life as the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee marked-up H.R. 5473, the "*Promoting Resilient Buildings Act*." The bill codifies an existing effort at FEMA to accept adoption of the "two most recent" building codes instead of the more stringent "most recent." Language was also included allowing for a two-year pilot on residential retrofit projects in mitigation programs.

Summertime will bring about the proverbial "silly season" as election fever takes hold, so time is of the essence before that timebomb goes off. In the meantime, all efforts are focused on repairing the funding damage done during the FY24 process and looking toward achieving as many priorities as possible prior to or during the upcoming Lame Duck session.

## UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Tuesday, April 16; 10am  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
[Budget Hearing FY25 Request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

Tuesday, April 16; 10am  
Committee on Homeland Security  
[A Review of the FY25 Budget Request for DHS](#)

Thursday, April 18; 10am  
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
[The FY25 DHS Budget Request](#)

## NEWS FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

### WEBINAR ON PIPELINE SECURITY

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) is a longtime NEMA partner. They will be hosting a Pipeline 101 webinar on April 22, 2:00-3:00pm EST. The webinar will feature presentations from the National Propane Gas Association, and Colonial Pipeline who will share insights into the nation's expansive pipeline infrastructure and how different sources of fuel utilize this network to deliver products to customers across a multitude of states. Speakers will discuss how they utilize pipelines for reliable operations and product distribution, and opportunities for coordination and engagement with state agencies. A brief description of the webinar and registration information can be found [here](#).

### RULEMAKING ON NATIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a final rule updating FTA's [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans \(PTASP\) regulation](#), along with a newly revised [National Public Transportation Safety Plan](#). These major safety updates are intended to make transit systems safer for transit workers and passengers nationwide, while providing workers more input in safety-making decisions through enhanced safety committees. The new rule and revised safety plan are the result of months of work within the agency and in response to dozens of comments filed by stakeholders, including transit agencies.

In the first major update to the [PTASP regulation](#), FTA is increasing frontline transit worker involvement in safety, strengthening communication between frontline transit workers and transit agency management, and requiring the industry to use data to identify and manage safety risk.

Also, reauthorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in November 2021, the [National Safety Plan](#) creates a blueprint for transit agencies to adopt stronger safety practices, including mandatory performance measures for transit agencies subject to the PTASP regulation to address assaults on transit workers.

More information on this rulemaking can be found [here](#).

### REPORT ON STATE AND LOCAL SPENDING OF COVID FUNDS

This week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released an update to their October 2023 report on state and local spending of federal COVID-19 funds. Most (\$325.5 billion) of the \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) were allocated to states, the District of Columbia, and local governments. SLFRF recipients have until December 31, 2024, to obligate their SLFRF awards and generally have until December 31, 2026, to spend their awards.

As of September 30, 2023, states and the District of Columbia reported obligating 73 percent (\$142.4 billion) of their \$195.8 billion in SLFRF awards. All states reported obligating at least 25 percent of their SLFRF awards and 23 states reported obligating over 75 percent.

More information on GAO's findings can access [here](#).

## MORE NEWS FROM D.C. AND BEYOND

**Tampa Free Press:** [FBI Fears Coordinated Attack on the Homeland](#)

**Local10 News (Florida):** [State Emergency Manager: Goal is to get hundreds of Floridians home from Haiti](#)

**Alaska Public:** [DHS Funds New Arctic Security Research Center](#)

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