
MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Lydia Kou and Members of the Palo Alto City Council
CC: Ed Shikada, City Manager
Chantal Cotton Gaines, Deputy City Manager

From: Townsend Public Affairs
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Date: August 14, 2023

Subject: State and Federal Legislative and Funding Updates

Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. (TPA) has prepared this report for the City of Palo Alto to provide a summary of State and Federal efforts, highlight the current status of the legislative process, identify various pieces of legislation that may be of interest to the City, and provide an update on funding advocacy efforts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Legislature adjourned for its Summer Recess beginning July 14 until August 14. Upon its return, the Legislature will have one final month to complete bill consideration before the 2023 Legislative Session officially adjourns on September 14. Of the over 2,600 measures introduced this Session, the Legislature will consider 1,231 in the final month before adjournment.

The return from Summer Recess on August 14 will feature Appropriations Committee hearings for both houses – both with immense bill agendas to consider. Following the first week of Appropriations Committee hearings, lawmakers will also need to get any financially significant bills through a second suspense file before they can move to the floor for final votes. These committees will consider a number of the City's priority bills, including high-profile measures relating to housing and land use, public safety, and economic development. Bills that pass the Appropriations Committees will move to the second house floor for consideration from the entire legislative body. Governor Newsom will then have until October 14 to sign or veto any bills that make it out of the Legislature and to his desk.

In addition to upcoming legislative deadlines for the progression of priority measures, the Legislature has recently undergone notable leadership changes. Following nearly a year-long transition, Friday, June 30 marked the final day of the Session with Anthony Rendon as the Assembly Speaker, as Robert Rivas was sworn in to serve as the 71st Speaker of the Assembly. Representing an agricultural swath of central California, Rivas becomes the first Speaker in a generation to hail from a rural region. His priorities as Speaker include working to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

As Speaker, Rivas has made some changes to internal Assembly leadership, including the Appointment of Assembly Member Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale) as Chair of the Local Government Committee. Assembly Member Carrillo previously served on the Palmdale City Council. His tenure as Chair will impact the progression of numerous local government measures in the coming years.

Advocacy Update

Over the last few months, the City/TPA team has been actively working on extension of the Homekey grant project completion deadline. This effort includes strategizing and implementing a plan of action with our regional partners including the County, neighboring jurisdictions, and their advocates. We are working closely with our State Legislative delegation to brief them on the interconnectivity of the projects, reasons why more time is needed, and desired outcomes; providing input on project materials and summary documents; and driving follow up and next steps.

Priority Legislation for the City of Palo Alto

1. Bills With City Positions

The following chart provides an overview and update as of July 27, 2023 on bills on which the City has taken positions.

BILL	SUMMARY/STATUS	CITY IMPACT	POSITION
<u>AB 12</u> <u>(Haney)</u>	Prohibits tenants from having to pay more than one month's rent as a security deposit for furnished or unfurnished rental property. <i>Status: Pending final consideration on Senate Floor.</i>	This measure adds another tool in protecting renters against unreasonable housing costs. This could benefit residents in Palo Alto who utilize rental housing.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>AB 1469</u> <u>(Kalra)</u>	Authorizes the Santa Clara Valley Water District to assist unsheltered people living along streams, in riparian corridors, or otherwise within the district's jurisdiction, in consultation with a city or the County of Santa Clara, to provide solutions or improve outcomes for the unsheltered individuals. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Senate Appropriations Committee.</i>	This measure provides the City with additional resources for homelessness prevention and regional collaboration by authorizing the Water District to assist homeless individuals occupying areas within its jurisdiction.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>AB 1484</u> <u>(Zbur)</u>	Requires temporary employees of cities and counties to join existing bargaining units accessible to permanent employees. Imposes requirements on employers with temporary employees hired to do the same or similar work performed by permanent employees. Requires complaints alleging a violation of its provisions to be processed as unfair practice charges under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Senate Appropriations Committee.</i>	This measure could impact hiring, retention, and collective bargaining practices for city employees, by grouping temporary, retired annuitant, and full-time employees into the same bargaining units.	Oppose (position shared in June; letter recently submitted)

BILL	SUMMARY/STATUS	CITY IMPACT	POSITION
<u>AB 1505</u> <u>(Rodriguez)</u>	Authorizes the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to dedicate Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities application funding to specified projects to augment and support the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Senate Appropriations Committee.</i>	Seismic safety improvements align with the Palo Alto City Council's 2023 Priority of Community Health and Safety and will help the City progress in the seismic improvements objective.	Support (letter submitted in May)
<u>AB 1598</u> <u>(Berman)</u>	Requires DOJ to prepare a firearm-safety-certificate study guide, separate from the current instruction manual, explaining information covered on the firearm safety certificate test, and to develop a new pamphlet on the risk and benefits of firearm ownership. <i>Status: Pending consideration from Senate Floor.</i>	This measure could improve safety related to gun handling and violence. City support demonstrates continued support for Assembly Member Berman's legislative agenda.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>AB 1637</u> <u>(Irwin)</u>	Requires cities and counties that maintain a public internet website and use public email addresses for employees to utilize a ".gov" or a ".ca.gov" domain name for their websites and email addresses by January 1, 2029. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Senate Appropriations Committee.</i>	This could present a long and costly process for the City to comply and could impact constituents' ability to communicate with the City. Further, the bill is without state compliance support or tangible security benefits. TPA advocated for a delayed compliance deadline, which was recently achieved with a recent amendment that pushed compliance from 2026 to 2029.	Oppose (letter submitted in June)
<u>ACA 1</u> <u>(Aguilar-Curry)</u>	Proposes amendments to the California Constitution to allow a city, county, or special district, with 55% voter approval, to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specified special taxes to fund projects for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, or public infrastructure. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Not required to adhere to typical deadlines because it is a constitutional amendment.</i>	This bill creates another optional tool for infrastructure financing and levels the threshold between other public agencies that already enjoy a 55% voter threshold, such as school boards.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>ACA 5 (Low)</u>	Repeals a provision in the California Constitution that limits marriage to a "man and a woman," and replaces it with provisions that make the right to marry a fundamental right. <i>Status: Chaptered on July 20, 2023. Pending consideration from the state electorate as a ballot initiative in 2024.</i>	One of the Palo Alto City Council Priorities for 2023 is the equal treatment of all individuals. This measure removes outdated and discriminatory language from California's constitution.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>SB 2</u> <u>(Portantino)</u>	Creates a new issuing process for concealed carry weapons (CCW) licenses following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in New York Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen from June of 2022. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee</i>	This measure aligns with recent Council action taken to restrict concealed weapons in sensitive areas such as government buildings, schools, and polling places.	Support (support shared in June; letter recently submitted)

BILL	SUMMARY/STATUS	CITY IMPACT	POSITION
<u>SB 43</u> <u>(Eggman)</u>	Updates the definition of “gravely disabled” to include a new focus on preventing serious physical and mental harm stemming from a person’s inability to provide for their needs for nourishment, personal or medical care, find appropriate shelter, or attend to self-protection or personal safety, due to their mental or substance use disorder. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.</i>	One of the Palo Alto City Council Priorities for 2023 is Community Health and Safety which includes some focus on mental health. This bill aligns with that priority.	Support (letter submitted in May)
<u>SB 363</u> <u>(Eggman)</u>	Establishes a real-time, internet-based dashboard to collect, aggregate and display information about the availability of beds in a range of psychiatric and substance abuse facilities. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.</i>	One of the Palo Alto City Council Priorities for 2023 is Community Health and Safety which includes some focus on mental health. This bill seems to align with that priority. The City would need to further analyze the resources required for this legislation.	Support (letter submitted in May)
<u>SB 423</u> <u>(Wiener)</u>	Extends the sunset for SB 35 provisions (Wiener, Statutes of 2017) from 2026 to 2036, relaxes specified construction labor requirements, and removes the exclusion of the coastal zone. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.</i>	Palo Alto has included in the Legislative Guidelines many principles to support local control of land use and this bill conflicts with that.	Oppose via Recorded Council Majority (letter submitted in June)
<u>SB 572</u> <u>(Stern)</u>	Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to submit a report to the Legislature, by February 1, 2024, on the status, outcomes, and recommendations of the agency’s investigation into natural gas prices during winter 2022-23. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.</i>	This measure aligns with City efforts to investigate and prevent future natural gas price spikes, like what occurred in winter of 2022.	Support (letter submitted in June)
<u>SB 719</u> <u>(Becker)</u>	Requires law enforcement agencies to ensure any non-confidential radio communications are accessible to the public. <i>Status: Held as a 2-year bill. May be acted upon January 2024.</i>	The City Council supported similar legislation in 2022. As of Fall 2022, the City of Palo Alto switched routine Palo Alto Police radio transmissions to now be broadcast on an unencrypted channel. This bill in its current form should not affect Palo Alto operations.	Support (letter submitted in May)

2. Bills With Recommended Action

The following chart features three measures that TPA advocates have identified with recommendations for the City to take a formal position on, pending Council consideration and approval on August 14.

BILL	SUMMARY/STATUS	CITY IMPACT	RECOMMENDED ACTION
<u>AB 531</u> <u>(Irwin)</u>	Enacts the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023, which places a \$4.68 billion GO Bond authorization before voters at the March 2024 statewide primary election to fund behavioral health infrastructure. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Senate Appropriations Committee</i>	This measure would provide funding for the development of care facilities for the state's homeless. This is likely to impact regional and City-wide homelessness services, and result in reductions in homeless populations once effectively implemented.	Support
<u>SB 326</u> <u>(Eggman)</u>	Recasts the MHSA by, among other things, renaming it the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), expanding it to include treatment of substance use disorders, changing the county planning process, and expanding services for which counties and the state can use funds. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee</i>	This measure is complementary to AB 531 and would increase the efficiency with which behavioral health care dollars are used. This is likely to have a positive impact on City and regional homeless needs.	Support
<u>SB 532</u> <u>(Wiener)</u>	Requires the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) to increase by \$1.50 the toll for each of the seven state-owned toll bridges in the San Francisco Bay Area and continuously appropriates toll revenues to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), including revenues from the toll increase for allocation to transit operators in the region that are experiencing a financial shortfall. <i>Status: Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee</i>	This measure would generate needed operations funding, however, funding would be disproportionately directed to MUNI and BART services located in San Francisco and the East Bay. This measure could increase commute costs and transit accessibility for low-income riders.	Seek input from Council – a possible draft resolution is included in this packet

3. Notable Bills with Recommendations to Monitor Progress

The following chart includes priority legislation TPA advocates are monitoring on behalf of the City with active engagement with Author's offices and staff, stakeholders, and committees.

BILL	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
<u>AB 309</u> <u>(Lee)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Creates the California Housing Authority, as an independent state body, the mission of which would be to ensure that social housing developments that are produced and acquired align with the goals of eliminating the gap between housing production and regional housing needs assessment targets and preserving affordable housing.	Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring

BILL	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
<u>AB 557</u> <u>(Hart)</u>	Open Meetings	Extends modified teleconferencing provisions under the Brown Act when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, indefinitely.	Pending consideration on Assembly Floor.	Monitoring
<u>AB 894</u> <u>(Friedman)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Requires public agencies to allow proposed and existing developments to count underutilized and shared parking spaces toward a parking requirement imposed by the agency.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>AB 965</u> <u>(Carrillo)</u>	Energy and Utilities	Requires a local agency to undertake “batch permitting” upon receiving two or more broadband permit applications for “substantially similar projects.” The bill deems approved any such permit application that a local agency neither approves or rejects within a “presumably reasonable time.”	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>AB 1317</u> <u>(Carrillo)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Adopts a pilot program that requires property owners of new multi-family residential properties in certain counties to unbundle the cost of parking from the cost of the housing unit. Includes Santa Clara County.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>AB 1319</u> <u>(Wicks)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Modifies how the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) may collect and expend revenue. Provides that actions taken by BAHFA to raise, administer, or allocate funding for tenant protection, affordable housing preservation, or new affordable housing production, or to provide technical assistance consistent with BAHFA’s purpose is exempt from CEQA.	Pending consideration from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>AB 1567</u> <u>(Garcia)</u>	Climate	Places a \$15.955 billion climate resilience general obligation bond before the voters on the March 5, 2024, Primary Election ballot.	Pending policy committee consideration.	Monitoring
<u>AB 1633</u> <u>(Ting)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Specifies that a local agency has disapproved a housing project in violation of the Housing Accountability Act (HAA) if it fails to make a determination that a project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), or fails to adopt, certify, or approve certain environmental documents under specified circumstances.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee	Monitoring
<u>AB 1657</u> <u>(Wicks)</u>	Housing	Enacts the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which places a \$10 billion General Obligation bond before voters in the March, 2024 primary election to finance specified affordable housing and homeownership programs	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring

BILL	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
<u>SB 321 (Ashby)</u>	Community Services	Establishes the Local Public Library Partnership Program in which the State Librarian would coordinate with each local public library to ensure each student is issued a student success card by 3rd grade and increase their access to a library.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>SB 4 (Wiener)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Establishes that affordable housing development projects are a “use by right” on land owned by religious institutions or independent higher education institutions	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>SB 440 (Skinner)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Authorizes two or more local governments to establish a regional housing authority (Authority) for purposes of raising, administering, and allocating funding and providing technical assistance at a regional level for affordable housing development	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>SB 450 (Atkins)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Identified as the SB 9 (Atkins, Statutes of 2022) "Clean up bill." Among other things, prevents local agencies from creating zoning, subdivision, and design rules that do not apply equally to all development within a particular area.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>SB 567 (Durazo)</u>	Housing and Land Use	Provides renter protections including expanding the population of protected tenants, limiting allowable rent increases, and closing loopholes related to the no-fault just cause for eviction.	Pending consideration from Appropriations Committee.	Monitoring
<u>SB 867 (Allen)</u>	Climate	Authorizes a \$15.5 billion climate resilience bond to be placed before voters at an unspecified election.	Pending policy committee consideration.	Monitoring.

State Budget Update

On June 13, Governor Newsom signed the 2023 Budget Act, [SB 101](#), into law, four days before the constitutional deadline of July 1. Overall, the budget reflects a \$310.8 billion spending plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year. This agreement also closes an estimated \$32 billion budget deficit while setting aside about \$37.8 billion in reserves. In early July, the Governor signed into law a package of “Budget Jr. Bills” and “Budget Trailer Bills” which amend the Budget Act and provide implementing language for key spending programs, and reflect the final agreement on the state’s spending plan reached between the Administration and the Legislature.

Much of the negotiations throughout this year’s budget process centered around the Governor’s desire to include several measures to expedite large-scale infrastructure projects by, in part, accelerating the judicial review of CEQA lawsuits and providing funding for transit operations. Ultimately, the negotiations resulted in a concession the Governor made, to remove the proposed Delta Tunnel water project from being eligible for expedited CEQA review. Key accounts related to housing, homelessness, public safety, and transportation are mostly stabilized from budget amounts in the past few years.

Below is an overview of key spending programs included in the final budget agreement, organized by issue area:

Housing

The housing package in the state budget includes various annual and one time funding programs. The California Dream for All shared equity down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers is fully funded by rejecting the \$200 million proposed cuts, as is the Accessory Dwelling Unit Grant Program by rejecting \$50 million in proposed cuts.

The budget directs \$100 million to the Housing and Community Development Department's flagship affordable housing development program: Multi-Family Housing Program. It retains \$50 million for the CalHome affordable housing retention and rehabilitation program, by partially rejecting \$100 million in proposed cuts, and \$82.5 million for the Foreclosure Intervention and Housing Preservation Program while achieving budget year savings through deferral of \$345 million previously allocated to the program.

Homelessness

The state budget includes \$1 billion into round five of the state's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program, which local officials can use for housing, outreach at encampments, emergency shelters and more. In accordance with the Governor's desire to see local accountability for use of funds, the agreement includes language to require local government recipients to incorporate more data relating to homelessness prevention goals and outcomes to more effectively assess the efficacy of the program.

Public Safety

The state budget includes various programs for opioid overdose education and prevention, with \$3.5 million ongoing funding to county offices of education to supply opioid overdose reversal medication, with at least two units at all middle and high schools within each county office's jurisdiction.

The budget also includes \$15.3 million annually for four years from the Opioid Settlements Fund to support harm reduction programs for staff and costs related to delivery of naloxone, fentanyl test strips, overdose prevention and response training, and drug treatment provision and navigation, in the California Harm Reduction Initiative.

Further, the budget agreement includes annual funding over the next four years for the expansion of the Naloxone Distribution Project includes expenditure authority from the Opioid Settlements Fund of \$74.7 million in 2023-24, \$35.7 million in 2024-25, and \$24.7 million in 2025-26 and \$24 million in 2026-27.

Transportation

The transportation budget package includes a restoration of the \$2 billion from the General Fund for the TIRCP program, as well as committing \$1.1 billion in new and previously appropriated transit funding for the newly created Zero Emission Transit Capital Program. This funding would flow to regional transportation agencies by formula and can be used for transit capital infrastructure or can be directed to meet the operational needs of transit agencies in their

jurisdiction. The trailer bill language describes the process by which the regions can access their share of these funds and includes some accountability measures regions must meet.

In addition, the transportation package requires CalSTA to establish and convene the Transit Transformation Task Force to include representatives from transit operators, local governments, transportation advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders, to develop policy recommendations to grow transit ridership and improve the transit experience for all users of those services. From this effort, a report of findings and policy recommendations are to be submitted to the Legislature no later than October 31, 2025.

Proposed Statewide Bond Measures

The Governor's Administration and the Legislature have proposed a number of statewide bond measures to address issues related to housing production, behavioral health services, climate resiliency, and the modernization of school facilities, among others. The proposed statewide bonds feature roughly \$100 billion in total funding. The state's estimated borrowing limit is \$26 billion.

The state does not impose limitations on how much it can borrow, however, in deciding which measures to prioritize, the Legislature and Administration will weigh a number of factors. Those include voter sentiment and the state's economic outlook and its debt service ratio — the percentage of the state's general fund that is spent paying down its debt. The state's annual debt service from the general fund sits at \$8.1 billion and is expected to grow to \$8.9 billion in 2026-27, according to estimates from the California Department of Finance.

High-profile proposed bond measures include the following. Bond measures for the March primary ballot must be approved by two-thirds of lawmakers by the end of the legislative session on September 14 and then signed by Governor Newsom. Items for the November election can be voted on until early next summer.

- **[AB 531 \(Irwin\)](#)** enacts the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023, which places a \$4.68 billion General Obligation Bond authorization before voters at the March 2024 statewide primary election to fund behavioral health infrastructure. These funds would be used for the construction of care facilities throughout the state to support those struggling with mental illness and substance abuse.
- **[AB 1567 \(Garcia\)](#) and [SB 867 \(Allen\)](#)** both propose over \$15 billion in bonds for a comprehensive climate resiliency package. Funds would be used for drought, flood, and fire mitigation, coastal resilience, park and outdoor access programs, and clean energy development, among other things. The two near-identical measures are parked in the Senate and the Assembly as a means to facilitate negotiations between both houses and the Administration on final funding priorities.
- **[AB 1657 \(Wicks\)](#)** Enacts the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which places a \$10 billion General Obligation bond before voters in the March 2024 primary election to finance specified affordable housing and homeownership programs. Programs include the Multifamily Housing Program to finance the construction of permanent and transitional housing for lower income households, and the CalHOME program, which provides grants to local public agencies and non-profit developers to assist individuals and households through deferred-payment loans.

The Governor has publicly announced his support for a behavioral health facilities capital construction bond (AB 531) totaling \$4.8 billion and is prioritizing its placement on the March primary election ballot. In addition, he is supportive of a climate resiliency bond – even going so far as to predicate portions of the state’s total climate budget on the passage of a future bond. The passage of these bonds would provide for ongoing funding programs that align with many of the City’s goals, including clean energy development, parks and recreation, affordable housing, and transportation, to name a few.

State Advocacy Next Steps:

- *Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) will continue to work with the Legislature to advocate on behalf of priority bills.*
- *TPA will work with Legislators moving forward bond measures to identify strategies for the inclusion of funding for priority projects and programs.*
- *TPA will plan to meet with Staff and the City Council following the adjournment of the 2023 Legislative Session to identify funding priorities to incorporate into a budget request for the coming year, as well as opportunities for sponsored legislation.*
- *TPA to work with City staff to create a process for City legislative engagement, including an updated Legislative Platform Document and/or a Legislative Subcommittee at the direction of the Council.*

FEDERAL UPDATES

Update on Congressionally Directed Spending Submittal

TPA worked in partnership with the City to draft, fine-tune, and submit a congressionally directed spending request for infrastructure funding to help redevelop the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park. The Park, a locally significant affordable housing resource, is in desperate need of sustainable redevelopment, including 100% electrification. An award would assist the predominantly Latinx and very low-income residents who call it home. This application was in partnership with the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and the requested amount was \$2 million. The request was submitted to Senator Padilla, Senator Feinstein, and Congresswoman Eshoo.

Congresswoman Eshoo chose the project as one of her priorities to move forward. The request was incorporated into the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD)’s markup in the amount of \$850,000. Due to the partisan composition of the House, Republican lawmakers received an outsized share of community project request funding, with many Democratic lawmakers seeing funding cuts to their original request amounts.

The House and the Senate must move forward with reconciling the differences between their proposed spending packages. Congress must approve or extend funding for all twelve appropriations bills by September 30 or risk a government shutdown. What’s more, the debt limit compromise passed earlier this year includes a trigger provision that would automatically cut one percent of all discretionary programs if Congress fails to pass all measures before the start of 2024. Republicans are advocating for significant funding reductions within the House, which can impact action on fiscal year 2024 spending bills. Lawmakers in both chambers will use the August break to negotiate a final package.

Update on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Authorization Legislation

On July 20, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 3935, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration for the next five years by a 351-69 vote. One of the amendments incorporated into the package was offered by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. The amendment requires the FAA to solicit feedback from communities impacted by aircraft noise as part of the Community Collaboration Program. The amendment was adopted by voice vote as part of a package of amendments. If effectively signed into law, this amendment will offer additional transparency and collaboration between communities like Palo Alto, airlines, and the FAA in negotiating flight paths and their associated impacts.

While the House voted to pass the authorization legislation, in the Senate, progress has slightly lagged. However, noteworthy advancements are on the horizon. A significant revelation came from Aviation Subcommittee Chair Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) who highlighted a recent "breakthrough." The crux of this agreement involves an extension of the commercial pilot retirement age from 65 to 67. In tandem, there's an agreement to uphold the current rules necessitating up-and-coming commercial pilots to log 1,500 flight hours. Notable disagreements between airlines like Delta and United are impeding the bill's progression. A central contention revolves around flight quotas at Reagan National Airport with endeavors to maintain within-perimeter services and ensure operational dependability. Concurrently, there's a push to bolster competition in the national capital area, a sticking point that's currently stalling the Senate bill's entirety. The current FAA authorization expires on September 30.

In addition to the progress of this legislation, TPA is working with city staff to submit a comment letter to the FAA regarding airplane noise review to articulate concerns regarding noise from aircraft overflights. The FAA is engaging with the public and other stakeholders to learn more about aviation noise and provide input for the agency's consideration. Comments are due September 29, 2023.

Federal Advocacy Next Steps:

- *TPA to continue to advocate for the inclusion of the Congressionally directed spending proposal and keep the Council and City Staff updated on its progress.*
- *TPA to continue to work with City staff on the crafting of the FAA Noise Policy review comment letter and keep the City updated on opportunities to engage in the public comment process.*
- *TPA to continue to monitor updates from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and their investigation into high natural gas prices during the winter of 2022 and provide opportunities for the City to engage in public comment processes.*
- *TPA to work with City Staff and the Council to identify funding priorities and federal grant programs that match with eligible projects.*

GRANT FUNDING UPDATES

Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) currently provides grant writing support to city staff. Since coming onboard, TPA grant writers have provided consultation, review, editing, narrative drafting, grant assembly, submission and advocacy for the following projects.

Grant Program	Project	TPA Action	Requested Amount
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	This program would reimburse the City of Palo Alto's Police Department for the purchase of bullet proof vests for peace officer personnel protection.	TPA provided direct consultation, narrative drafting, technical assistance, and submitted the application on behalf of the City.	\$30,000
Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program	This program would support the City law enforcement support local law enforcement in preventing and responding to organized retail theft and motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft.	TPA provided direct consultation, narrative drafting, technical assistance, and submitted the application on behalf of the City.	\$5,103,283
FY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)	This program would support the City's law enforcement in improving homeland security detection and response capabilities.	TPA provided direct consultation, narrative drafting, technical assistance, and submitted the application on behalf of the City.	\$15,000
Total: \$5,148,283			

TPA currently provides a monthly grant memo to staff that covers relevant and upcoming funding opportunities that align with municipal priorities. TPA then hosts a monthly grant meeting with relevant departments to review and discuss upcoming grant programs and determine eligibility and competitiveness. In addition, the TPA grant writing team regularly organize calls with staff outside of standing calls to discuss specific projects and how best to position them for future funding success. TPA works closely with staff to track all grant applications submitted by the city, due dates, and if successful reporting requirements.

TPA and city staff are currently working on several grant applications for transportation infrastructure, community resilience, recreation infrastructure, emergency preparedness and more.

Grant Program	Project	TPA Action	Due Date	Approx. Request Amount
The Mega Grant Program	The Mega Program (the National Infrastructure Project Assistance program) supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits. Palo Alto is seeking funding for grade separation projects within the City.	TPA is actively working with City transportation department staff to formulate a competitive project and scope to submit prior to the grant deadline.	August 21, 2023	\$50,000,000

Grant Program	Project	TPA Action	Due Date	Approx. Request Amount
Strategic Growth Council Community Resilience Center Grant	This program supports the planning and construction of neighborhood-serving 'community resilience centers' that can protect people from extreme heat and other climate-driven extreme weather and build community preparedness. City staff are in the process of identifying a location to implement a construction grant to develop a community resilience center.	TPA is actively working with City staff to determine a competitive project location and need that would serve vulnerable residents in times of extreme climate events.	September 18, 2023	\$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	This program seeks to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities, like highways or rail lines, that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.	TPA is working with City staff and agency staff to work toward an application for the rehabilitation of the Newell Road Bridge.	September 20, 2023	\$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000

Grant Funding Next Steps:

- *TPA to continue to work with City staff in identifying priority projects with matching programs and advise, draft, and submit comprehensive applications on the City's behalf.*
- *TPA to continue post grant submittal advocacy for submitted applications and to schedule debrief calls between the City and agency staff once award announcements are released.*
- *TPA to continue to work on upcoming applications for City priority projects, such as grade separation funding and funding for the completion of the Newell Road Bridge.*