



May 15th, 2020

Congress

With much of the nation remaining under some level of lockdown, the Senate resumed work on May 4th. The House has followed the advice of its attending physician and remained away from Washington, DC. It is expected to return today, Friday the 15th, but only under [strict orders](#) from its Sergeant at Arms and Attending Physician who sent out a memo describing required social distancing and even mask decorum (“masks should be professional in appearance”). The House leadership is proposing proxy voting to enable floor action without having to require 435 members to fly back and forth to DC as is their normal weekly practice.

COVID19

When the House returns, it will consider another massive infusion of funding. With a total of \$2 trillion, [the proposal](#) would provide funding to states and local governments, more payments to individuals, as well as significant funds for health care. Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) is having none of that. He wants to get liability protection for businesses and employees from legal suits related to COVID19, but otherwise feels the need for time to evaluate impacts from the CARES Act before proposing more spending. Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell [warned](#) that Congress needs to spend more money to prevent a wave of bankruptcies and prolonged joblessness that could permanently damage the economy.

What’s Missing: Talk about the massive national infrastructure program has all but died in DC.

WRDA

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has approved its WRDA proposal, dubbed America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020. Here are links to the text of the [original bill](#) plus a [major amendment](#) adopted by the committee. Look for the bill to be on the floor sometime in June. The House should release its WRDA proposal later this month.

Appropriations

The House is likely to have all of its appropriations bills passed by early June. Leadership settled on total numbers of each of the 12 bills and staff members have been hard at work during the extended recess. It’s not clear whether the Senate will be able to get any of its bills passed in July since it hasn’t reached

agreement on its spending numbers. We expect the total Corps budget for FY21 to look much like this year's numbers.

NFIP

The Program expires on September 30th. It has gone through 15 short-term extensions since 2017. We're betting on another punt until June of next year.