

Port of Pittsburgh Commission & Legislative Committee Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

1. **Special Welcome to the students attending today’s meeting from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CMU’s class “Our 3 Rivers: Key To Quality Of Life & Our Economy”**

2. **Water Resources Development Act of 2022**

- U.S. Senate passed their WRDA bill on July 28th by a 93 – 1 vote
 - Includes cost-share adjustment from current 65 % General Funds / 35% IWTF to 75% / 25% for construction and major rehab projects
 - Contains language to not sunset timeline for this cost-share change
- U.S. House passed their WRDA bill on June 8th by a vote of 384-37
 - House bill does not contain 75/25 cost-share change
 - 75 House Members, including our local Congressmen Lamb, Doyle, Reschenthaler and Kelly, have signed on to a July 7th letter in support of 75/25 language that went to appropriate Committee leadership
- Next step – House and Senate staff currently negotiating two bills – action likely ***after*** Election Day in November
- Port of Pittsburgh Commission’s priorities remain:
 - Upper Ohio River Navigation System Project & Lower Mon Project
 - Oppose additional taxation, tolling, lockage fees & support 75/25 cost-share
 - Reassess how the USACE conducts their Benefit-Cost Analysis

3. **Annual Federal Energy & Water Appropriations Funding**

- Federal Fiscal Year ends September 30th
- Congress likely to pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government funded through December 16th
- Expect flurry of legislative activity just before the holidays

4. **Inland Waterways User Board Meeting took place on August 16th**

- Key take-away: inflation & supply chain issues causing cost over-runs
 - ***Lower Mon Project needs an additional \$109 million***
 - ***Montgomery Locks & Dam Project needs an additional \$200 million***
 - ***Will need our collective voice to advocate on this in the coming year!***

5. **State Grant Opportunity**

- PennDOT’s Multimodal Transportation Fund program is currently open. Visit [website](#) for more information and applications are ***due by 4:00 PM on Monday, November 14, 2022*** – contact Scott at PortPitt for more info if interested
- Eligible applicants include municipalities, council of governments, business/non-profit organizations, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, public airports, airport authorities, and ports and rail entities

6. **Looking Ahead**

- PA Senate Joint Committee hearing (Labor & Industry with Environmental Resources & Energy) in Pittsburgh on 10/14 on “The Importance of PA Waterways to Energy and Economic Development.” Gateway Clipper tour with Industry on 10/13 @ 12:30.

END