



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #641 June 8, 2018

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## House approves Corps funding in FY2019 minibus

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed [H.R. 5895](#), the Energy & Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act by a vote of 235-179. The "minibus" is the first in what Congressional leaders anticipate will be a series of three-bill spending packages aimed to expedite passage of FY2019 appropriations bills prior to the start of the new fiscal year which begins on October 1.

The FY2019 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill, [as previously reported](#), funds the Corps at \$7.280 billion, including \$3.3 billion for the agency's navigation program. This also includes \$1.6 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), which represents a \$200 million increase over FY2018 levels and exceeds the targets previously authorized in WRRDA 2014. Significant "additional funding" is provided in the bill as well and if passed in final legislation, would be used by the Corps to develop their FY2019 workplan. A Corps funding comparison, including programmatic funding, can be found below:

	<b>FY2019 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY2019 House Bill</b>	<b>FY2019 Senate Bill</b>
<b>Overall Corps Funding</b>	<b>\$4,785,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,280,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,927,000,000</b>
Corps Navigation Program	\$1,930,000,000	\$3,300,000,000	\$3,230,000,000
HMTF funding	\$965,130,000	\$1,600,000,000	\$1,528,000,000

### In This Issue

House approves Corps funding in FY2019 minibus

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to host Infrastructure Initiative webinar

OMB requests input on easing maritime industry's regulatory burden

Senate Appropriations Committee approves \$1 Billion for BUILD/TIGER

AAPA announces 2018 Communication

<b>General Investigations</b>	<b>\$82,600,000</b>	<b>\$128,000,000</b>	<b>\$123,000,000</b>
Flood & Storm Damage		\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
Flood Control		\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Shore Protection		\$2,250,000	\$2,000,000
Navigation		\$10,323,000	\$9,823,000
Coastal & Deep Draft		\$6,500,000	\$9,000,000
Inland		\$6,500,000	\$6,000,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$6,750,000	\$5,000,000
Environmental Restoration or Compliance		\$3,000,000	\$5,500,000
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$1,019,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,323,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,161,000,000</b>
Flood & Storm Damage		\$200,000,000	\$150,000,000
Flood Control		\$180,000,000	\$150,000,000
Shore Protection		\$60,000,000	\$50,000,000
Navigation		\$525,067,000	\$500,250,000
IWTF		\$99,750,000	\$122,750,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes		\$125,000,000	\$70,000,000
Environmental Restoration		\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Environmental Infrastructure		\$80,000,000	\$75,000,000
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$3,193,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,820,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,740,000,000</b>
Navigation Maintenance		\$32,902,000	\$25,000,000
Deep Draft Harbor & Channel		\$520,000,000	\$473,952,000
Donor & Energy Transfer Ports		\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Inland Waterways		\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000

s Award  
Winners

USDOT  
announces  
grant funding for  
transportation  
technology

U.S.  
Department of  
Transportation  
releases list of  
proposed  
INFRA grant  
recipients

Northwest  
Hydroelectric  
Association  
seeks Executive  
Director

Small, Remote & Subsistence		\$60,000,000	\$50,000,000
Other Authorized Purposes		\$75,000,000	\$45,000,000

The House Energy & Water bill also includes language in support of the Corps' 2017 Fish Operations Plan for Federal Columbia River Power System dams. This would essentially curtail a repeat in 2019 of the increased spill operations ordered this year in the FCRPS BiOp litigation, which will cost ratepayers an estimated \$40M. Other notable provisions in the bill include repeal of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, and ensuring no FY2019 funds are spent on federal dam removal or further development of a National Ocean Policy established by the Obama Administration.

It is expected that the Senate will also be working to move appropriations bills as quickly as possible, although a specific timeline has not been released. For more information, contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to host Infrastructure Initiative webinar

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting a stakeholder webinar to discuss the agency's efforts in response to the Administration's Infrastructure Initiative. The agency is hoping to hear from stakeholders about ways to streamline permitting and improve project delivery. Additional information is available on the [Corps' Infrastructure Initiative website](#), and the slides that will be presented during the webinar can be found [here](#).

The webinar will be held Wednesday, June 20, from 11am-12:30pm PDT. Details can be found below:

- Webinar conference  
URL: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>
- Meeting number: (511)468-6455; participant code: 674364
- Call-in: 888-240-3210; access code: 184323

If you have questions regarding the webinars or the Corps' efforts on the Infrastructure Initiative, email [CW.Infrastructure.Team@usace.army.mil](mailto:CW.Infrastructure.Team@usace.army.mil).

## OMB requests input on easing maritime industry's regulatory burden

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The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is seeking input on how the Federal government can better manage regulatory costs imposed on the maritime sector. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within OMB would specifically like comments to address how existing agency requirements affecting the maritime sector can be modified or repealed to increase efficiency, reduce or eliminate unnecessary or unjustified regulatory burdens, or simplify regulatory compliance while continuing to meet statutory missions. The request is in response to the Administration's regulatory reform initiative outlined in [Executive Order 13771](#), and focused on reducing regulation and controlling overall regulatory costs.

Comments must be submitted by July 16th through <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to [OMB.DeregulatoryRFI@OMB.eop.gov](mailto:OMB.DeregulatoryRFI@OMB.eop.gov), and include "Maritime Regulatory Reform RFI" as the subject line. PNWA will be submitting comments, and requests that our member provide input to [Heather.Stebbing@pnwa.net](mailto:Heather.Stebbing@pnwa.net) no later than June 29th. For additional information, visit the federal register notice or contact Shannon Joyce at (202) 395-5897.

## Senate Appropriations Committee approves \$1 Billion for BUILD/TIGER

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Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved their FY2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill. We are pleased to report that it provides \$1 billion for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program, formerly known as TIGER. This includes up to \$15 million for planning, preparation, or design

grants, and 30 percent for rural areas. The bill also requires DOT to have an equitable geographic distribution of funding, balance the needs of urban and rural areas and invest in a variety of transportation modes. While the Senate bill does not set aside funding for port related infrastructure, it should be noted that the House's legislation would dedicate \$250 million of the \$750 million proposed to port projects.

As a reminder, the FY2018 omnibus provided \$1.5 billion for BUILD/TIGER grants. A funding notice was released in April to solicit applications for this round of the program, with a deadline of July 19th. Additional information can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>, and questions can be submitted to [BUILDGrants@dot.gov](mailto:BUILDGrants@dot.gov).

## AAPA announces 2018 Communications Award Winners

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[The American Association of Port Authorities \(AAPA\)](#) has announced the recipients of their 2018 Communications Awards Program. Out of 82 awards given, seven went to ports in the Pacific Northwest, with top honors of Overall Communications Excellence going to the Port of Longview for their 2017 Summer Tour Series and the Port of Grays Harbor for their Business Report. The Port of Vancouver USA received the Excellence Award for their 2017 Holiday Greetings, awards of Distinction for their Community Report and Connecting with the Community program, and a Merit Award for their jobs and economic impact video. The Port of Coos Bay also received an award of Excellence for their Oregon's Seaport and "Oregon's Bay Area" videos. PNWA would like to congratulate all of the winners. For a list of all recipients, click [here](#).

## USDOT announces grant funding for transportation technology

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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced a funding opportunity for transportation technology grants. Up to \$60 million in federal funding is available through the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program (ATCMTD) for new technologies which improve transportation efficiency, safety, system performance and infrastructure return on

investment. FHWA is interested in projects which bring data together from different systems, such as integrated corridor management, real-time traveler information, traffic data collection and dissemination, and other intelligent transportation system technologies. Eligible entities include Port authorities, state departments of transportation, local governments, transit agencies, and metropolitan planning organizations. Applications must be submitted by June 18 through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## U.S. Department of Transportation releases list of proposed INFRA grant recipients

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The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has released their list of recommended projects to receive funding through the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program, also known as INFRA. [26 projects](#) will receive a total of \$1.5 billion in grant funding to support highway focused programs. Two of those projects were port related in Pennsylvania and Florida, and only one project was awarded in the Northwest, to the Idaho Department of Transportation. Per the FAST Act, DOT has submitted this list to Congress, who will have 60 days to review the projects before grants are awarded. For more information on INFRA, click [here](#).

## Northwest Hydroelectric Association seeks Executive Director

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The Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWA) has announced an opening for an Executive Director. NWA was established in 1981 and provides a regional voice for the hydropower industry on behalf of its membership. The Executive Director serves as the chief executive of NWA and must possess skills to assess current and emerging policy issues and develop communication materials and advocacy on behalf of the industry's interests. A broad knowledge of the hydropower industry is necessary. NWA supports several industry events and a major annual conference. The anticipated start date for the position is October 2018, but flexibility may be considered. Candidates must send a cover letter describing how their qualifications and interests align with the expectations of the

position, a current resume, compensation expectations, and three professional references by 5:00 p.m. PDT on July 9th. Click [here](#) for additional information.

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