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Amid Partisan Rancor House Passes and Senate Rejects Stimulus Bill; Packages Include Additional Construction Spending

AGC has been working for the past year to convince Congress and the White House to include construction investment programs in any economic stimulus proposals. This week we have continued our efforts by meeting with congressional leaders, writing a strong message to both the House and Senate and signing onto letters from our transportation related coalitions, the Americans for Transportation Mobility and the Transportation Construction Coalition. Despite the success of getting the House and Senate to finally draft stimulus bills with infrastructure, the outlook for these bills is bleak. AGC will continue to push for additional spending for infrastructure investment in every possible legislative proposal.

House and Senate Democratic leaders put together two separate economic stimulus spending bills that would have provided federal funding for a variety of construction programs. The Senate this morning took up a \$56 billion package that would have provided over \$25 billion for federal construction programs. However, a procedural motion on the measure failed by a vote of 52 to 42, several votes shy of the 60-vote threshold needed for the motion to pass. The Senate bill would have provided \$8 billion in additional funding for the federal-aid highway program; \$2 billion for public transportation; \$350 million for Amtrak; and \$400 million for airport capital improvement projects.

On the other side of the Capitol, House Democrats today introduced their version of an economic stimulus spending bill. The House version would provide \$30 billion for infrastructure investments, including \$12.8 billion for the federal-aid highway program; \$3.6 billion for public transportation; \$600 million for airport capital improvement projects; and \$500 million for Amtrak. The House passed its measure today; however, the Senate voted not to proceed to the bill earlier in the day. It is unlikely that the Senate will take up the House bill or reconsider its own prior to adjournment in the upcoming days.

AGC Working with Senators Wyden and Thune on Bonding Proposals

In an effort to identify new sources of funds for infrastructure investment, AGC of America and other industry partners have been working with Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and John

Thune (R-SD) to revive a proposal that would provide additional funds for transportation infrastructure. The bill, S. 2021, The Build America Bonds Act, would provide \$50 billion in new transportation infrastructure funding. This one-time bonding program will empower states and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across various modes of transportation including roads, rail, transit and water. These additional funds would complement the core federal transportation programs and assist states in reducing the large backlog of transportation infrastructure projects. This would create millions of jobs, generate significant economic growth, improve mobility and save lives. AGC backed similar proposals over the last 6 years.

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