



## Legislative Alert

**February 9, 2012**

**9:30 am**

### **Water Infrastructure**

Senator Charles Schumer (Democrat, New York) is pushing a bill that would support funding for water infrastructure.

He referenced a federal study conducted by US EPA every four years that surveys water systems' needs.

The study, which is **attached** to this e-mail, found that water systems need a \$334 billion investment over 20 years to update its systems.

Several organizations are lobbying for water infrastructure funding. These organizations include, but are not limited to:

US Conference of Mayors  
National League of Cities  
National Association of Counties

## Next Steps

House: Building the vote right now, and how to bring it to the floor the week of February 13, 2012.

Senate: Committee action at present, but will bring the bill to the floor the week of February 13, 2012.

## Challenges

The House and Senate are so far apart on financing, policy considerations and timelines that the transportation industry is skeptical that the chambers will agree on a reauthorization. As discussed in previous alerts, it is important to manage expectations given the ongoing lack of consensus between the chambers and political parties.

Listed below are selected challenges that may impact passage.

- 1. Drilling Revenues**

The proposed drilling provision in the House version is an issue that the Senate majority (and some Republicans) may not agree.

- 2. Timeline**

The Senate's MAP-21 plan is a two-year reauthorization, and the House's American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act is a five-year reauthorization. The duration of these bills are so far apart that it will be a significant challenge to reach an agreement.

- 3. Transit Issue**

The proposed transit provision in the House version is a poison pill that has caused outrage among the transit community. Transit will be funded for five years with no plan for future funding. The way the bill is written, state governors will have the discretion to fund transit. The policy view is that transit is a local issue that should be funded with local dollars.