

## **LAGC Legislative Bulletin #6 - 2017R May 23, 2017**

On Wednesday, May 24, the House has scheduled HB 632, Rep. Steve Carter, for debate. HB 632 is the gas tax increase and indexing component of the infrastructure package. It was approved by the House Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday, May 16, with several amendments that tie it to provisions in two other bills, along with amendments providing for some projects (already in the Priority Program) to be approved for earlier approval for construction.

We've been working hard to ensure we'll have the necessary 70+ votes necessary to have the House approve it. It remains a heavy lift as arch-conservative, anti-any-tax whatever it is, groups opposing it. The last time the 16 cent gas tax was increased was in 1989, twenty seven years ago. The transportation trust fund is the only fund used to pay for repairs and improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure, along with port, bridge, and Parish Transportation Fund projects.

If we don't have the necessary votes on May 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll choose another date where it will be made "Special Order" for the House's consideration. PLEASE KEEP UP YOUR CONTACTS WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS, URGING THEM TO VOTE YES ON HB 632.

On Thursday, May 19, the full House approved HB 598, Rep. Abramson, that brings additional accountability and transparency to the priority program and timelines for design and construction of projects. It now goes to the Senate for debate. It is the second bill in the infrastructure package.

SB 57, Sen. Cortez, a constitutional amendment removing state police from any funding from TTF, is before the House Appropriations Committee, awaiting a hearing. It is the third bill in the infrastructure package.

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HB 104, Sen. Appel, legislation to only require contractors' license numbers on the bid envelope, has been approved by the House, which brings the bill to signature by the governor.

HB 236, Rep. Shadoin, a constitutional amendment to un-dedicate several constitutionally dedicated funds, including the TTF. The author voluntarily deferred the bill at the bill's first hearing, but he was able to get the necessary votes from the Appropriations Committee on Monday, May 15. AGC lobbyists were the only group to speak in opposition to the legislation. It now goes to the House & Governmental Affairs Committee for discussion.

HB 264, Stuart Bishop, adding Guaranteed Maximum Price to the list of lump sum and unit price bids to the law where they are, be excepted from news sales taxes imposed, has been approved by the House of Representatives. It now is before the Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee.

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