



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23, 2019
To: ARC Board of Commissioners
From: John Bayalis, Government Affairs Manager
jbayalis@atlantaregional.org, 404-797-9337

Greetings members of the Board. As I will be in Washington, D.C. for a Capitol Fly-In sponsored by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) during the July Board meeting, I've put together this supplemental report to bring everyone up to speed on some issues of importance.

Federal Budget

As of Tuesday, July 23rd, it appears Congress and the White House have reached a “budget deal”. I put the term in quotes because the deal itself **only** involves the suspension of the debt ceiling and agreement on budget caps – both issues I've discussed at recent Board meetings. The appropriations process will still need to be completed after Congress returns from August Recess.

Getting consensus on the two important fiscal issues impacting completion of the actual budget is welcome news and should go a long way to stemming any talk of government shutdowns over the next two years. Details include:

- The debt ceiling has been suspended until July 31, 2021.
- The two-year deal will include more than \$2.7 trillion in spending allocations for both defense and non-defense budgets.
- House is on schedule to vote for the deal *this* Friday.
- Senate is on schedule to vote for the deal next week.
- Questions remain as to how the new money actually gets distributed because...
 - House has already passed its FY20 appropriations bills.
 - Senate still needs to pass its FY20 appropriations bills.
 - The two chambers will have to reconcile their policy differences before a full FY20 budget gets sent to the White House by the end of September.

Important Upcoming Dates for State Activity

- **Joint Commission on Freight & Logistics**: First meeting takes place August 14th from 10 AM – 12 PM @ Georgia Department of Transportation HQ (Atlanta, GA)
- **House Rural Development Council**: First meeting takes place August 20 & 21st in Jasper, GA (location TBD)