



To: Mayor Truitt
Vice Mayor Villanueva
Councilman Johnson
Council Member Foro
Councilman Longbaugh
Councilman Alton
Councilman Williams

From: Michelle Lehman, Intergovernmental Relations Director
Steve Primrose, Triadvocates

Date: February 28, 2008

Re: Proposed Federal Agenda, Fiscal Year 2009

Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to have the Council consider the City's federal legislative agenda for Fiscal Year 2009. Triadvocates is currently under contract with the City for federal lobbying efforts. This report provides recommendations on federal priorities for Surprise in FY09.

Introduction:

The partnership between Triadvocates and the City of Surprise continues to be a great source of pride for the firm, and we appreciate the opportunity to work cooperatively with the City and its representatives to improve the lives of Surprise's residents. The following outlines key components of the City's federal agenda for fiscal year 2009.

I. Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations and Regulatory Requests

Over the past few months, Triadvocates has met with city department officials to establish the nexus of where local services meet federal resources and requirements. Through these discussions, we have determined the City has significant involvement in projects where the federal government has the authority, if not the responsibility, to participate.

Transportation

Triadvocates and city staff are in the process of reviewing various transportation projects that have the potential for the greatest impact and the best probability of receiving favorable consideration by Congress. When considering congressionally directed projects within the Transportation Appropriations Bill, the programs targeted for funding differ between the House and Senate. We will use our extensive contacts within the Arizona

Congressional Delegation and the respective Appropriations Committees to determine the best source of federal funds for the City to pursue.

Additionally, Triadvocates will work with the congressional delegation to ensure that the U.S. Department of Transportation will conduct its review of a required environmental assessment pertaining to the Loop 303 in an expedited fashion. Our elected officials in Congress will know that the 16 mile segment of Loop 303 running from Interstate 10 to Grande Avenue is critical to the future development of the City's economic base.

Water Services

In the last few days of the Clinton Administration (2001), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted a new standard for arsenic in drinking water at 10 parts per billion (ppb), replacing the old standard of 50 ppb. Because of the lowered standard for drinking water, western communities with naturally occurring arsenic faced dramatic new costs for wellhead treatment, construction of central treatment facilities and well rehabilitation. The City is required to absorb various capital, acquisition and planning costs, as well as future operation and maintenance costs, associated with arsenic treatment. Because the federal government imposed these new requirements on the City without a simultaneous provision of resources to facilitate compliance, the situation constitutes a perfect illustration of an unfunded federal mandate.

An appropriation in fiscal year 2009, while a minor contribution to overall costs, would soften the immediate economic impact on the City and its residents. There is precedent and authority for the use of EPA's State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funds for local arsenic mitigation projects.

Law Enforcement

Despite the incredible workloads undertaken by local law enforcement, there are never enough resources to address every aspect of public safety. Accordingly, police departments have to determine where to achieve the greatest impact given funding restraints. The federal government, through funds appropriated to the Department of Justice, can sometimes offer financial assistance for projects that assist the law enforcement community. Should the City determine there is a sufficient project that can coincide with the consideration of the federal agenda, Triadvocates will pursue its furtherance aggressively.

II. Support for Regional Efforts

Triadvocates continues to coordinate with representatives from Valley Metro and its municipal neighbors to secure federal funding for regional transportation priorities. The requests for FY09 in the

Transportation Appropriations bill includes \$20 million for bus expansion services in the Phoenix/West Valley communities, as well as region wide express/commuter connection buses and Rapid Transit buses throughout the Valley. Additionally, \$8.1 million will be requested for the West Valley Operating facility. In total, the federal request for bus and service expansion by Valley Metro is \$74.7 million.

The council has expressed interest in remaining cognizant of major federal programs that effect their citizens. Many federal programs provide financial assistance for community outreach and development efforts through formula funding. Programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) have been mainstays for metropolitan areas for decades.

The budget submitted by the president to Congress earlier this month again seeks to reduce the amount of funding for the CDBG program by 30 percent to \$2.9 billion. Obviously, any impact on the overall total of funding would result in a formula reduction conveyed to the City. Triadvocates will keep city staff apprised of any development that may impact these sources of funds.

III. Mission support

Triadvocates looks forward to providing ground support to the City of Surprise delegation attending the Congressional Cities Conference of the National League of Cities (NLC) in Washington, D.C. this March. We have already scheduled meetings for city officials with the offices of Senator Jon Kyl, Representative Trent Franks and Representative Ed Pastor. The highlight of the week should prove to be the private meeting we have secured with the Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Mary Peters. These meetings will facilitate the presentation of the City's federal agenda and discussion of pending federal issues of interest to Surprise and similarly situated municipalities. In addition, we will be participating in meetings and briefings of Valley Metro in Washington regarding the region's federal transportation agenda for fiscal year 2007. We also plan to host the Surprise delegation at a Triadvocates dinner on March 11 to review the progress made during the trip.

Beyond the March mission to Washington, D.C., Triadvocates will continue to aggressively promote the City's federal priorities throughout the year. This will involve continued intervention with Members and staff of the Arizona congressional delegation, the Office of the Arizona Governor, jurisdictional committees of the House of Representatives and United States Senate, state and federal agencies, and regional entities such as the Maricopa Association of Governments. As has been customary, we will continue to participate in activities of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, as well as other municipal coalitions and working groups.

VI. Conclusion

Establishing relationships with decision makers in Congress and the federal government is recognized as more of a marathon than a sprint. We believe the channels of communications we continue to facilitate on behalf of the City with Congress are part of an essential long-term investment. In light of the next four-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation projects in 2009, the City should be in an enviable position compared to other Valley municipalities in order to promote its transportation priorities.

In conclusion, Triadvocates remains proud of its relationship with Surprise and looks forward to aggressively pursuing the City's federal agenda in Washington, D.C. It is an especially challenging time, particularly concerning the award of appropriation earmarks. Nevertheless, Triadvocates will deploy all of its resources to ensure that Surprise's voice is heard and that its legislative priorities are accorded the consideration they are due.