

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUGUST 2021

Director's Comments:



As I write this newsletter, Hurricane Ida has brought incredible destruction throughout the state of Louisiana, making landfall as a Category 4 storm. It has also impacted Mississippi and areas of Alabama, and will continue to do so in the coming days. Unfortunately, the aftermath from the devastation will last for much, much longer.

During disastrous events like this, everyone realizes just how critical infrastructure is. In New Orleans, the flood-protection built after Hurricane Katrina appears to have kept the city from going underwater again. However, the catastrophic winds have left the city without electricity. It will likely take days just to determine the extent of damage to the power grid, and far longer to restore electrical transmission to the region. Government officials have said some residents should prepare to be without water for five days and without power for up to three weeks.

With the Delta variant from the Covid-19 Pandemic still raging, and many area hospitals already at capacity prior to the storm, this is a recipe for complete disaster. Please pray for all those impacted, and remember the many workers that will literally put their lives on the line to repair and/or rebuild the infrastructure we all need for survival.

Regarding infrastructure, the U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a plan to consider the Senate-passed \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by September 27th of this year. If passed by the House with no amendments, it could go to the President for his signature by the end of September.

Tim

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-4
News & Notes	5-6
Hurricane & Flood Safety	7-8
CWCC Report	9-13
AUCA Word Search	14

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 2021



September 28 - 30, 2021

Perdido Beach Resort - Orange Beach, AL

www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com



***AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

Thursday, October 14, 2021

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2022 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL

AUCA "In-Person" Industry Lunch Meetings

Dates and Locations To Be Announced Soon





AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, October 14, 2021
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110

Morning Sporting Clay Shoot - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
General Meeting & Steak Lunch - 11:00 a.m.
Door Prizes & Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.
Afternoon Sporting Clay Shoot - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start



General Meeting & Steak Lunch

Guest Speaker: Miss Alabama - Lauren Bradford
(Lunch Included with Clay Shoot Registration or Sponsorship)

Come network with your peers, win great door prizes, and enjoy a delicious steak lunch while listening to our special guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2022 AUCA Officers and Board of Directors, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

(Participants must provide their own Gun and Shells)
Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.
Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.
Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

This year we are again raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

- Prize #1: \$1,000 Cash**
- Prize #2: \$500 Cash**

Tickets are \$10 each and allow two (2) chances to win.
(You do not have to be present to win)

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.



OCTOBER 14, 2021 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.

A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is October 8, 2021

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- GOLD TEAM SPONSOR - \$1,000** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch, company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website, event signage, promotional materials, & four (4) station sponsorships
- SILVER TEAM SPONSOR - \$750** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, & one (1) station sponsorship
- 4-PERSON TEAM - \$600** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch
- BRONZE EVENT SPONSOR - \$250** *Includes:* Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, one (1) station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

TEAM MEMBERS:

- 1.) _____ 3.) _____
- 2.) _____ 4.) _____

MORNING SHOOT: _____ **AFTERNOON SHOOT:** _____

CART NEEDED: YES _____ **NO** _____

4-person golf carts provided for all teams (you may also bring your own cart/ATV)

You must provide your own shells (Factory shells only - #7-1/2 or higher shot load)

Safety rules must be followed; signed waiver required; ear plugs and eye protection required

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM PRIZES

1st Place Team: \$400 + Trophies 2nd Place Team: \$300 + Trophies 3rd Place Team: \$200 + Trophies

GENERAL MEETING LUNCH (INCLUDED w/ TEAM REGISTRATION or SPONSORSHIP)

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Non-Shooter x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT REQUESTED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, Alabama 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org



To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

News & Notes:

AUCA 2022 Board of Directors Nominations:

AUCA is seeking nominations from members interested in serving on the 2022 AUCA Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving, or know someone that you think would be an asset to the AUCA Board, please submit the recommendation by August 31st.

Nomination Forms have been sent out electronically to all member companies. The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2022 Board at the September 8th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership and the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance at the October 14th General Meeting in Montgomery.

Construction Suicide Prevention Week — September 6-10, 2021:

An OSHA formed industry task force is encouraging participation in the Suicide Prevention Safety Stand-Down, September 6-10 to raise awareness about the unique risks construction workers face that can push them into depression and toward suicide.

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that men working in construction have one of the highest suicide rates of any industry, and a rate that is nearly four times higher than the general population.

The stand-down will coincide with National Suicide Prevention Month in September. Industry employers are encouraged to share and discuss available resources with their workers. Additional information and resources can found at the following link: <https://constructionsuicideprevention.com/>.

State Representative Thad McClammy Passes Away:

Alabama State Representative Thad McClammy, D-Montgomery, has died of natural causes at age 78 according to a news release from the Alabama House of Representatives.

McClammy was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1994 to represent District 76, which includes east, south, and western sections of the city of Montgomery.



News & Notes:

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

Tickets will be distributed to AUCA member companies beginning in September for the annual AUCA raffle. All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington. This year we will be once again be raffling two great prizes that anyone can use - CASH:

- \$1,000 Cash - Prize #1
- \$500 Cash - Prize #2

Tickets will be \$10 each, and will allow you two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 14th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

AUCA Newest Member Companies:

Peak Tapping Solutions, LLC

Billingsley, AL

Company Representative: Eric Scott

peaktappingsolutions.com

Valent Group

Birmingham, AL; Mobile, AL; Huntsville, AL; Decatur, AL

Company Representatives: Seth Stone; Jonathan McClendon

valentgroup.com

Birmingham & Mobile Mayors Win Reelection Races:

Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin cruised to an easy win without a runoff, garnering more than 64 percent of the vote. In Mobile, Mayor Sandy Stimpson also rolled to an overwhelming victory receiving 62% of the vote and will serve a third term as the city's top elected official.



Hurricane & Flood Safety:

Provided by National Weather Service

Hurricane Safety Tips and Resources

Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. On average, 12 tropical storms, 6 of which become hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. In the Central Pacific Ocean, an average of 3 tropical storms, 2 of which become hurricanes form or move over the area during the hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. Guam, the Northern Marianas and Micronesia experience typhoons all year round but the main season is in July through November with a peak from mid-August to mid-September. Over a typical 2-year period, the U.S. coastline is struck by an average of 3 hurricanes, 1 of which is classified as a major hurricane (winds of 111 mph or greater). By knowing what actions to take before the hurricane season begins, when a hurricane approaches, and when the storm is in your area, as well as what to do after a hurricane leaves your area, you can increase your chance of survival. If you, or someone you know, have been a victim of a hurricane, please share your story, including the town and state you were in and the year the event took place.. Please note that the National Weather Service will then have permission to use your story for educational campaigns. Sharing this information may help save someone's life in the future.

Hurricane Hazards

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and depression also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

- Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast.
- Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.
- Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.
- Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.
- Tornadoes can accompany landfalling tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.

(Continued on page 8)



Hurricane & Flood Safety:

(Continued from page 7)

- Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than a 1,000 miles offshore.

Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding

Tropical cyclones often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland. Flash flooding, defined as a rapid rise in water levels, can occur quickly due to intense rainfall. Longer term flooding on rivers and streams can persist for several days after the storm. When approaching water on a roadway, always remember Turn Around Don't Drown.

Rainfall amounts are not directly related to the strength of tropical cyclones but rather to the speed and size of the storm, as well as the geography of the area. Slower moving and larger storms produce more rainfall. In addition, mountainous terrain enhances rainfall from a tropical cyclone.

Flood Safety

During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television outlets. Avoid flood waters at all costs and evacuate immediately when water starts to rise. Don't wait until it's too late!

When flood waters recede, the damage left behind can be devastating and present many dangers. Images of flood destruction depict destroyed homes and buildings, damaged possessions, and decimated roadways. However, what you can't see can be just as dangerous. Floodwaters often become contaminated with sewage or chemicals. Gas leaks and live power lines can be deadly, but are not obvious at first glance.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

HOUSE PLANS TO VOTE ON INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE BY SEPTEMBER 27

The House adopted a plan to consider the Senate-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by September 27 of this year and passed a procedural vote allowing work to begin on a separate, \$3.5 trillion social spending package. If passed by the House with no amendments on this schedule it would go to the President for his signature by the end of September. According to Sante Esposito, the amounts in both bills are actual appropriations not authorizations. In his opinion, there remain open questions about how these appropriations relate to the FY22 appropriations process. Sante has been very active pushing CWCC's goals for us during this process.

The funding levels in the Senate Bill remain the working assumptions for the House Bill. The 220-212 party-line vote ends a stalemate between Speaker Pelosi and a group of Democratic centrists led by NJ Congressman Josh Gottheimer, who wanted the IIJA passed before the \$3.5 trillion social package was taken up for consideration. Passing the IIJA as soon as possible is imperative because the current surface transportation law, known as the FAST Act, expires on September 30.

If passed, the IIJA would be transformative for water and other infrastructure and this House agreement brings us one step closer to this historic investment. We will keep you updated as this landmark bill progresses.

August 2021 Insights

Senate Bipartisan Infrastructure Agreement

On July 28, the Senate negotiators and the White House reached agreement on a bipartisan infrastructure bill. Legislative language and more details forthcoming. Summary link below. Cloture vote passed. Debate, amendments and final vote to follow. Vote on final passage expected at the end of next week or sometime during the week of August 9. There's still a long road ahead for the package - a fraught Senate amendment process, escalating attacks from Trump and his allies in Congress and the media, and an uncertain path in the House given the concerns over substance by key Members like Congressman DeFazio, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Remember - this is the Senate agreement; the House may have its own package. In addition, the Speaker has stated that the House will not take up its infrastructure bill until after the Senate has passed its \$3.5T budget. Passage of the budget resolution would set in motion a reconciliation process to address issues not included in the infrastructure bill such as human infrastructure. The plan by the Senate Democratic leadership is to use reconciliation as it only requires a majority vote and not 60 votes. If the Senate Democrats vote in lockstep they will have 50 plus the Vice President.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 9)

Issues of interest included:

- S. 914, the bipartisan Senate-passed "Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act" – see page 3 of the link above and the section below in this report;
- Water Infrastructure, \$55B, including \$25.4B for the "Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act" – see page 4 of the link and the section below in this report;
- The "Energy Infrastructure Act" approved by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee – see pages 3, 20 and 35 of the link and the Western Water Bill section below in this report; and,
- FYI – the bipartisan highway bill from the Environment and public Works and the Commerce Committees – see page 3 of the link and the Senate Highway Bill section below in this report.

Western Water Bill

On July 14, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee marked up its title to the infrastructure bill that includes the following: \$1B for water recycling and reuse projects, of which \$550M is for projects authorized by Congress or selected for funding under the Title XVI WIIN grant program, and \$450M is for large-scale recycling and reuse projects (total estimated cost of \$500M or more, 25 percent Federal cost share, no total dollar cap); \$400M for WaterSMART grants; \$1.15B for water storage, groundwater storage and conveyance projects; \$3.2B for aging water infrastructure; \$1B for rural water projects; \$250M for water desalination projects; \$500M for dam safety programs; \$300M for implementing the Colorado River Basin Drought Plan; \$100M for watershed management projects; \$250M for aquatic ecosystems; \$100M for multi-benefit projects; and, \$50M for endangered species programs.

H.R.1015, the "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act" and the STREAM Act: "Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act"

On July 8, staff of Congresswoman Napolitano said that they are continuing to work with committee staff and leadership to get H.R. 1015 included in larger packages as well as advocate for more money in general for Title XVI. Also said that the Natural Resources Committee staff has been working with their Senate counterparts to push for more funding for Title XVI. On February 11, Congresswoman Napolitano introduced H.R.1015, the same bill she introduced last Congress. It increases the WIIN Act authorization to \$500M, strikes certain requirements, and increases the Federal share from \$20 to \$30 M. Last Congress, her bill did not move on its own but was included in H.R.2, the omnibus mega infrastructure bill that passed the House but not the Senate. A hearing is expected in the near future.

A draft by Senator Feinstein for which letters of support/comments were requested by April 15 –



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 10)

these are currently being reviewed. The Coalition sent a support letter noting the reauthorization of the Title XVI competitive grant program of \$250 million over 5 fiscal years, the increase in the per project maximum Federal funding contribution to \$30 million, and the elimination of the requirement that Congress must approve funding awards for specific projects through designating them by name in an enacted appropriations bill, the newly proposed Reclamation Infrastructure Finance Program and increased funding for, and expedited congressional approval for water shortage projects of \$750 million, and \$100 million for desalination projects, both over 5 fiscal years. This draft is viewed as the “son of S. 1932” which stalemated last Congress. The goal of this legislation is with Senate passage to conference with H.R.1015, the Napolitano bill, with the outcome hopefully closer to the higher Napolitano funding levels.

S. 914, “Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021” and H.R. 1915, “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021”

On April 28, the Senate passed the bill which provides \$14.65B over five fiscal years for the Clean Water SRF, the same for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, and \$125M for the AWSP and which includes the Feinstein-Padilla amendment which limits the prohibition against applying for Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) grants to USBR projects that received construction funds. Receipt of funds for other purposes - for example, feasibility studies - would no longer be a bar as they are in existing law.

On July 1, the House is expected to pass H.R. 3684, the “INVEST in America Act” - the House version of the highway bill. Included in that bill is H.R. 1915 which provides \$40B over five fiscal years for the Clean Water SRF and \$1B for the AWSP. It also includes the same prohibition language as S. 941 regarding eligibility for recycled water projects in the AWSP – that is, projects that have received USBR construction funds would not be eligible for AWSP grants. Lastly, includes reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water SRF at \$52.94B over ten fiscal years starting in FY22 (H.R. 3291).

In the Senate, the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Commerce Committee have reported their versions of the highway bill. The Banking and Finance Committees have yet to act.

H.R. 3404, the FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act

On May 21, Congressman Huffman introduced the FUTURE Act (with 10 cosponsors, all CA Dems), the same bill he drafted last Congress and which was included in H.R. 2. The bill increases the authorization of the Title XVI WIIN grant program to \$500M and the Federal cap share from \$20M to \$30M – per the Napolitano bill above. It also includes a \$300M water trust fund with \$100M ear-



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 11)

marked for recycled water projects. Plans going forward unclear at this time.

H.R. 4099, the "Large Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act"

On June 24, Reps. Napolitano, Grijalva, Huffman and Lee introduced the above bill which establishes a competitive grant program within the Department of the Interior for large-scale water recycling projects that have a total estimated cost of at least \$500M. The bill authorizes \$750M for the program from FY 23-27. Federal share is 25% but there is provision for increasing that. Projects must be within one of the USBR 17 western states. It has been reported that Senator Cortez Masto plans to introduce companion legislation.

FY22 Appropriations

This week the House passed its FY22 Energy and Water and Interior Appropriations Bills that included \$1.87B for the Clean Water SRF, \$1.357B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, \$75M for WaterSMART grants, and \$63.617M for Title XVI grants, of which \$10M is for Title XVI WIIN grants. The House has reported all 12 FY22 appropriations bills and is in the process of bundling them for Floor consideration. No action to date in the Senate.

Senate Budget

On July 13, Senate Democrats announced a top line budget number to enact the full array of the President's social welfare and family aid promises without Republican votes. The proposal, which is opposed by the Republicans as tax and spend, sets an overall limit of \$3.5 trillion for Democratic policies that won't make it into a bipartisan infrastructure deal, if Congress can reach one. If the still-forthcoming budget resolution can clear both chambers with party support, it will unleash the power to circumvent a GOP filibuster using the so-called reconciliation process, the same move that Democrats used to pass the President's \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid package in March. Combined with a bipartisan infrastructure compromise, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the budget's investments in infrastructure, the middle class and more would total about \$4.1 trillion, which is very, very close, he said, to what President Biden asked for.

Senate Highway Bill

On May 26, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee marked up its portion of the FAST Act reauthorization. It is substantially similar to the bill, S. 3202, that EPW approved on a bipartisan basis and unanimously nearly two years ago. That bill authorized \$287B in highway spending, 90-percent of which would be distributed to the states by formula. The bill featured a title on climate change that authorized \$10.8B for various programs addressing resiliency and \$1B (note the new



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 12)

bill increases that to \$2.5B) for electric, hydrogen, and natural gas vehicle charging and fueling stations. It provided billions for curbing emissions, reducing congestion and truck idling. It also streamlined infrastructure permitting and set a two-year target for environmental reviews. Lastly, the bill authorized \$12.5M per year to fund state and regional pilot testing of user-based alternative revenue mechanisms to the gas tax. Action by other Senate committees of jurisdiction – primarily Banking, Finance and Commerce – is pending.

House Highway Bill

On July 1, the House passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's "INVEST in America Act" a five-year \$547B surface transportation reauthorization bill that includes \$343B for roads, bridges and safety (\$32B for bridge funding to ensure bridges in communities of all sizes are safer, more reliable, and more resilient; \$4B in electric vehicle charging infrastructure; \$8.3B for activities targeted to reduce carbon pollution; and, \$6.2B for mitigation and resiliency improvements); \$109B for transit (scales up investment in zero-emission transit vehicles and streamlines the Capital Investment Grant program) and, \$95B for passenger and freight rail (\$32B for Amtrak; funding for corridor planning and development of high-speed rail projects; and, improves rail safety by addressing highway-rail grade crossings needs, requiring additional rail safety inspectors, addressing trespasser and suicide fatalities, and eliminating gaps in railroad safety).

FY22 Transportation Appropriations

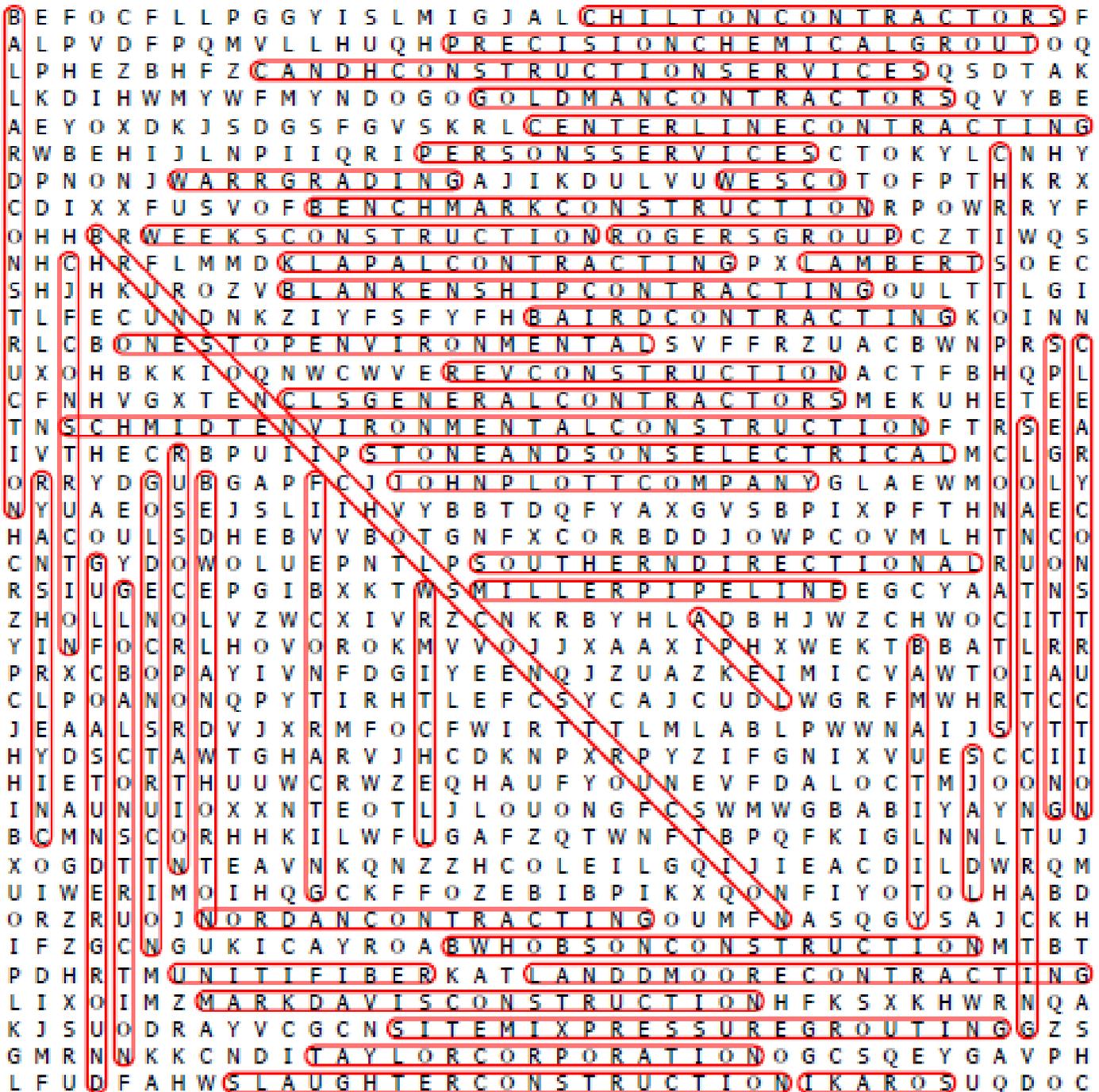
This week the House passed its FY22 Transportation Appropriations Bill which provides \$106.7B for DOT programs – an increase of \$19B for FY21 and \$18.7B above the President's budget request for FY22. Highlights are \$1.2B for National Infrastructure Investment Grants, \$61.9B for state highway formula programs, \$625M for passenger rail, \$2.7B for Amtrak, and \$15.5B for transit. The House has reported all 12 FY22 appropriations bills and is in the process of bundling them for Floor consideration. No action to date in the Senate.



AUCA Word Search:

AUCA Contractors

(Answer Key from July Newsletter Word Search)



Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185
Phone: 205-582-9436
Fax: 205-582-9155
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

**We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org**

Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.

**Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your
Training Needs**

Contact the Association Office for more information

facebook



@AlabamaUCA

LinkedIn

