

Congressional Appropriations Update

Congress has been very active over the past month, with House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees holding numerous hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) Budget. In general, most of these Subcommittees have expressed bipartisan criticism of the President's failure to recommend sufficient funding levels for domestic programs.

The House of Representatives is behind schedule on completing its Appropriations bills. This is uncommon because House Appropriators are typically prepared by this time of the month for their bills to be considered on the Floor. Much of the delay has been caused by the controversial Iraq War Supplemental spending measure that will soon be considered by Congress. Democrats and Republicans are at odds with President Bush over the high dollar figure, and more importantly, the lack of a firm exit strategy from Iraq. While we expect Congress to continue this quarrel with the President, we also anticipate the House to begin acting on its Appropriations measures later this month.

Historically, the Senate begins considering its spending measures in July. Senate Appropriators find it more helpful to act on their legislation following their counterparts' actions in the House. This strategy allows the Senate to know the funding levels and projects are already included in the House Report. Given this conventional schedule, we should have a good idea of whether your projects are approved by either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees by August.

As you know, Congressional schedules and timetables are subject to change at any given time. Rest assured that we at Marlowe & Company will continue to update you on any developments or changes to the Congressional Appropriations calendar.

Town of Newbury Appropriations Projects

As always, we will continue to monitor developments in Congress and inform you of events that are impacting the Towns' projects. During the past month, Marlowe & Company has been in regular contact with your Congressional Delegation and the Appropriations Committee staff, to advance the interests of your Appropriations requests. Please contact us should you have any questions or concerns.