

**Council of the District of Columbia  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

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**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON**

**THE BUILD BACK BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE**

**AND**

**PRIORITIZING SPENDING OF FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**

**Wednesday May 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Roundtable via Zoom**

**To Watch Live:**

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>

<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen>

On Wednesday May 17, 2023, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will convene a public oversight roundtable to consider the work of the Build Back Better Task Force and prioritizing spending of federal infrastructure investments. The roundtable will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In November of 2021, Congress approved the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) (“IIJA” sometime also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL), and in August 2022, Congress also approved the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169) (“IRA”). These two bills authorized billions of dollars of federally funded spending on infrastructure projects across the country, including massive investments in our public space and toward climate mitigation. Over the next few years, the District will receive approximately \$3.5 billion in formula-based funding, with the opportunity to apply for billions in additional available competitive grants.

In March 2022, Mayor Bowser convened the D.C. Build Back Better Infrastructure Task Force, to strategize about how the District can maximize the impact of the IIJA funds. The group included representatives of executive agencies along with dozens of “external partners chose for their expertise” in the priority areas that the Mayor had identified: transportation innovation, technology innovation, workforce capacity building, environment and resilience, and administration, compliance, and procurement. The Task Force issued a report in November of 2022, and to implement the Task Force recommendations, the report recommended creating a “BIL Central

Team.” During the roundtable the Committee will hear from the leaders of the BIL Central Team, Office of Budget and Performance Management Director Jenny Reed and Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers, along with the directors of agencies that expect to receive the bulk of IIJA and IRA funds.

The Committee expects to explore how the Task Force process worked last fall; how the BIL Central Team will coordinate projects going forward; how the BIL Central Team tracks the release of formula funding, including tracking and anticipating when federal guidance is expected for the funding; how the BIL Central Team tracks competitive grant opportunities and ensures that all agencies are maximizing those opportunities, including ensuring that any local matching requirements are anticipated in the District’s budget; the role for the Council, as the branch that approves the budget and appropriates funds, in coordinating with the executive and the BIL Central Team; how the Task Force gathered and included public input in its report and how the BIL Central Team will continue to gather and consider public input; what federal infrastructure money (including IIJA and IRA) is already incorporated into the Mayor’s proposed budget in each fiscal year; the process for executive agencies gaining access to and authority to spend federal grant funds authorized by the IIJA and IRA, including the Council’s role; whether and how the executive plans to expedite contracting for IIJA and IRA funds, to ensure any deadlines to spend the funds are not missed, and when during Fiscal Year 2024 the Task Force expects additional funding to be released.

Witnesses at this hearing will be limited to BIL Central Team leadership and relevant agency directors, as invited by the Committee. The roundtable will be streamed live for the public.