



# MARLOWE & COMPANY

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

## Memo

**To:** Marlowe & Company Clients  
**From:** Michael Willis, Public Affairs Advisor  
**Re:** Senate Jobs Bill  
**Date:** January 8, 2010

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The Senate announced on Thursday that it is making progress towards completing a legislative package of bills that it hopes will increase jobs. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid expects to begin voting on the individual pieces of legislation as early as this coming Monday and have the entire agenda passed in the Senate before Presidents Day.

As you know, the House of Representatives passed the Jobs for Main Street Act just before Christmas, but the Senate has refused to consider the bill. Now that health reform proposals have stalled in the Senate, President Obama wants to make job creation the top priority. While few details of the Senate version of the bill have been made public due to the ongoing negotiations, the bill is expected to be much smaller than the \$75 billion package that the House passed in December. Senate Democrats will have to get enough Republican support for their proposals to ensure passage now that they have lost their 60-vote majority. Nevertheless the multi-bill strategy outlined below has some dangers. Republicans are more likely to favor tax credit provisions than any bill that involves job created by Federal spending. That means some of the measures in the package may get enough votes to pass while others don't. From our point of view, the danger for local governments is that the additional infrastructure they need may get watered down or even defeated.

What follows is a summary our Senate sources tell us that Majority Leader Harry Reid said would be included in the Senate's package of job stimulation bills.

## SUMMARY:

### Tax Credits:

- Tax credits for employers adding new employees in 2010.
- An extension of unemployment insurance and COBRA tax credits
- Help for small businesses to write off the costs of major purchases, freeing up capital and allowing businesses to grow.

### Infrastructure Improvements:

- Extension of the current Surface Transportation Act to allow for billions more in infrastructure investment nationwide. However, this will not include individual projects that were submitted for consideration earlier this year in the Highway Bill. This extension will probably be through the 2010 congressional elections with a multi-year extension including individual projects moving in 2011.
- Investments in all of the major transportation modes, including airports, highways, intercity rail, and mass transit. These funds it will be awarded to the States and the States will determine what local projects to fund.
- Expansion of programs to improve drinking and waste water infrastructure through the Environmental Protection Agency and its programs.
- A lower-cost bond mechanism for state and local governments to enable them to pursue necessary projects such as work on public buildings, courthouses, schools, roads, public safety facilities, water and sewer projects and public utilities.
- TIGER grants which are multi-modal grants which could be used to upgrade several modes of transportation (e.g., road repair; transit upgrades and airport improvements) in a number of specific communities.
- Grants to upgrade school buildings nationwide.

### Small Business Assistance:

- Creation of a Small Business Lending Pool to help community banks more quickly lend to small businesses.
- Streamlining of several current Small Business Administration lending programs to allow for faster loan processing.

## Energy Efficiency Improvements:

- Provide tax rebates to consumers on qualifying energy efficiency renovations.
- Provide grants for energy efficiency renovations for affordable housing.
- Provide grants for energy efficiency renovations for manufacturing plants.

## Civil Service Jobs:

- Direct aid to states and local governments so they can retain and hire school teachers, firefighters and police.

These proposals are not law. Given the fact (a) that the Senate has yet to even develop final versions of its package, and (b) that whatever emerges from the Senate will be quite different from the House jobs bill, it will take a few weeks for the final bill to be passed. We will keep you informed as new information becomes available.

If you have questions or would like more information on funding opportunities for your community, please contact your Marlowe & Company team leader or email [legislation@marloweco.com](mailto:legislation@marloweco.com).