


Federal Lobbying Report
2017-2018



**Buchanan
Ingersoll
Rooney PC**

Legislative Monitoring and Reporting

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney (Buchanan) monitors all legislative and administration action in Washington, DC which may impact the City of Pittsburgh and its related authorities.

Buchanan compiles and submits comprehensive written reports to the Mayor's Office about monthly. This monthly report contains information about legislation on the federal level that pertains to the City of Pittsburgh.

Buchanan provides updates to city officials either in person or via telephone weekly on issues of importance in Washington DC, while providing ongoing input into the City's government affairs planning. More frequent communication occurs as necessary.

Lobbying the Trump Administration and Congress

Buchanan has worked closely with our office to build, strengthen and maintain relationships with legislators in Washington, D.C. In particular, Buchanan has helped to set up a variety of meetings between the Mayor, his Chief of Staff and other senior staff members with lawmakers and key staff.

In addition to making these connections, Buchanan has helped to create briefing and preparatory materials in advance of these meetings to ensure positive and fruitful outcomes. Buchanan has also been responsible for meeting follow up to ensure that the City's goals continue to be advanced.

Further, Buchanan has created opportunities for City officials to serve as witnesses at Congressional hearings regarding "smart" infrastructure and the Highland Drive VA facility. Their efforts have given the City and our agenda significant attention that we might not otherwise have received.

Finally, Buchanan has arranged for Members of Congress and key staff to visit the City to review projects, including the Highland Drive VA campus and various former and potential TIGER (now BUILD) Grant projects.

Trump Administration

- Buchanan set up introductory meetings with various White House offices, including:
 - The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and
 - The Office of the White House Counsel, specifically, the person with purview over transportation issues.
- Buchanan has worked "behind the scenes" extensively with the U.S. Department of Transportation on a variety of issues on behalf of the City.
- Buchanan has worked extensively with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the General Services Administration on the Highland Drive property transfer, specifically Dan Matthews, Commissioner of GSA's Public Buildings Service.

Congress

Buchanan has worked extensively to engage not only Pittsburgh's local representatives; but, they have also engaged wider Pennsylvania and national representatives to further our goals. A sampling of the individuals, offices and committees that Buchanan has engaged is listed below.

U.S. Senate

- Senator Bob Casey
 - Kristen Gentile, Chief of Staff
 - Derek Miller, Legislative Director
 - Andrew Usyk, Legislative Assistant
 - Adam Tarr, Legislative Assistant
- Senator Pat Toomey
 - Dan Brandt, Chief of Staff
 - Brad Grantz, Legislative Director
 - Tyler Minnich, Legislative Assistant

Appropriations Committee Staff

- Rejat Mathur, Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD)
- Nathan Robinson, Professional Staff Member, T-HUD Subcommittee
- Chris Tomassi, Professional Staff Member, Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Subcommittee

U.S. House of Representatives

- Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA, Chairman House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management)
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR, Ranking Member, House T&I Committee, potential next Committee Chairman)
- Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL, Chairman House T-HUD Subcommittee)
- Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA)
- Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA, Chairman House T&I Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines & Hazardous Materials, potential next Committee Chairman)
- Former Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA, Former Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs & Related Agencies)
- Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA)
- Former Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA)
- Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-PA)
- Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA, Chairman, House T&I Committee)

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Staff

- Chris Vieson, Majority Staff Director
- Kathy Dedrick, Minority Staff Director
- Johanna Hardy, Public Buildings Subcommittee Staff Director
- Elliott Doomes, Minority Counsel, Public Buildings

Appropriations Committee Staff

- Doug Disrud, Clerk, T-HUD Subcommittee
- Carl Barrick, Staff Assistant, T-HUD Subcommittee

Working to Support the City's Legislative Priorities

Water Infrastructure and Priorities

Buchanan works closely with the City of Pittsburgh and its Authorities to lobby at the federal level for issues related to water infrastructure. Specifically, the City is pursuing grant awards to help cover \$400M in capital investments to help replace 18,000 full lead lines and necessary system infrastructure upgrades.

Buchanan is actively exploring several avenues for funding in the current appropriations cycle and the ongoing Water Resources Redevelopment Act process. Both of these avenues can have a long lead time and often take more than one cycle to bear fruit. We are also exploring opportunities under the much talked about Infrastructure Plan. We expect that the House will act on their Infrastructure package this summer.

BUILD (Formerly TIGER)

The City has been rather successful in securing Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants over the last several years. This year, the Trump Administration changed the program name to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. Buchanan helped us to understand where the City and Commonwealth stood with the Trump Administration and which projects would be viewed most favorably when deciding to move forward with applying for the next grant round. Applications are due in July.

Infrastructure Priorities

Buchanan has worked closely with the City of Pittsburgh to develop a comprehensive list of infrastructure priorities. This list was crafted over several months of discussion and is being used to engage in conversations and lobbying activities with legislators to advocate for the most important infrastructure needs in the City. Buchanan helped us to create a list that ranks our priorities based on need, feasibility, and funding opportunities.

This list has been delivered to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and his staff. Buchanan is actively working with the Chairman Shuster and his senior staff to include solutions for these priorities in their upcoming (June) release of a bipartisan infrastructure plan.

Veteran's Affairs/Highland Drive Site (Public Safety Campus)

Buchanan has done a significant amount of work to advance the transfer of the Highland Drive vacant VA campus to the City. When we began working with Buchanan, the City was seeking to purchase the property from the Federal government; but, Buchanan was able to identify two avenues which allow the property to be transferred to the City for our desired use (Emergency Management) free of charge.

In addition, Buchanan has worked with various Members and Committees to engage the Obama and Trump Administrations to engage in the process, which had been largely stalled. Through our work with Buchanan, we were able to secure a meeting with all stakeholders in DC that served to start the process. Buchanan then planned a site visit with relevant Members of Congress, their staff and GSA & VA staff that served to further drive the process.

We are currently awaiting additional paperwork with the anticipation that the facility will be formerly transferred to the City this Summer or Fall.

Tax Reform

Buchanan and Ingersoll helped the City of Pittsburgh to navigate the Trump administration's proposed tax reform legislation. In particular, Buchanan helped to advise the City as to what the proposed changes would mean for residents of Pittsburgh. Additionally, Buchanan helped us to navigate the various interest group requests to have the Mayor make public statement on tax reform.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs)

Buchanan assisted the City in vocally opposing the elimination of CDBGs. Buchanan designed a regional strategy to attract the attention of Pennsylvania's Republican Members of Congress. Through this effort, the City and 13 other entities in Allegheny County provided a strong coordinated regional voice of opposition that forced Sen. Toomey and others to truly consider the elimination of the CDBG program. The effort was successful at contributing to this national conversation to stop the elimination of the CDBG program.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Buchanan assisted the City in vocally opposing the elimination of Low Income Housing Tax Credits that help fund low income housing in the City of Pittsburgh. The effort was successful at contributing to this national conversation to stop the elimination and the funding line item was actually increased for this program.

Historic Tax Credits

Buchanan assisted the City in vocally opposing the elimination of Historic Tax Credits that preserve and fill gaps on projects throughout the City of Pittsburgh. The effort was successful at contributing to this national conversation to stop the elimination and the funding line item was actually increased for this program.

Opportunity Zones

As part of the 2017 tax reform package, Congress created the Opportunity Zones program. Under this program, Governors were permitted to nominate land tracks to the U.S. Department of Treasury for consideration. Treasury has not yet released their final list of land tracks for each state. We expect they will do that this Summer.

Designated land tracks will be able to attract investment from private individuals who will receive substantial tax benefits for investing in the development of these tracks areas.

The process was rather complex, unclear and fast. Buchanan was able to assist us in working through the process both in Harrisburg and in Washington. With their help, we nominated the maximum allowable tracts to the Governor, of which, all were included in the 300 tracts submitted to the U.S. Treasury for consideration.

State & Local Tax (SALT) Write Off

Buchanan assisted the City in vocally opposing the elimination of SALT. Buchanan designed a regional strategy to attract the attention of Pennsylvania's Republican Members of Congress. Through this effort, the City and 13 other entities in Allegheny County provided a strong coordinated regional voice of opposition that forced Sen. Toomey and others to truly consider the elimination of these write offs. The effort was successful at contributing to this national conversation which resulted in maintenance of this write off.

Transportation Priorities – Bus Rapid Transit

Buchanan has actively helped the City of Pittsburgh pursue federal funding for our transportation priorities. In particular, they spent time specifically advocating for funding opportunities the proposed Bus Rapid Transit project. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has rated the project as “high” but has declined to move forward with the project because they just don’t want to spend appropriated dollars. Buchanan has been working closely with the T&I Committee to change this attitude at USDOT/FTA, at least for our project. We expect additional action on this issue toward the end of the 2018 calendar year.

Letters of Support

Mayor Peduto is connected nationally and globally with many advocacy and membership organizations. These organizations make various requests of the Mayor to make public statements via press releases or to sign on to letters, memorandums, or other statements. For those organizations making requests regarding federal legislation or policy, Buchanan helps to advise us in making a responsible and informative decision. The following is a list of policies and legislative items where the Mayor was asked to participate publicly and Buchanan has advised:

- 2020 Census
- Affordable Housing
- Animal Welfare
- Assault Weapons
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Farm Bill
- Health & Human Service Department
- Housing & Urban Development
- Immigration
- Infrastructure
- Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court Case
- Lewis & Clark Trail – National Historic Trail
- Mental Health & Addiction
- Money Markets
- Net Neutrality
- Nuclear Disarmament
- Public Safety
- Re-entry
- Tax Code
- Department of Transportation
- Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (TIFIA)
- Wall Street Reform (Elimination of Dodd-Frank)
- Water Resources Development ACT (WRDA)

Federal Dollars Received 17-18

Source	Description	Amount	Dept	Budget Yr.
DOL	Pittsburgh Partnership	\$ 3,373,388.90	HR&CS	2017
DHS	PEMA and Homeland Security	\$ 165,833.62	PBP	2017
USDA	Summer Food Program	\$ 233,731.01	Parks	2017
FHWA	Transportation Improvement Program	\$ 7,317,600.00	DOMI	2017
FHWA	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	\$ 436,102.00	DOMI	2017
FHWA	Washington Boulevard Multimodal Path Construction	\$ 448,471.00	DOMI	2017
FHWA	HSIP Liberty Avenue	\$ 4,940,000.00	DOMI	2017
HUD	Housing & Urban Development Trust Fund	\$ 70,156.80	HR&CS	2017
HUD	Community Development Block Grant	\$ 12,754,743.00	DCP	2017
HUD	HOME Program	\$ 1,667,573.00	URA	2017
HUD	Emergency Solutions Grant	\$ 1,148,125.00	DCP	2017
HUD	HOPWA	\$ 837,664.00	DCP	2017
FTA	SMART - Allegheny Circle Phase 2	\$ 741,196.00	DOMI	2017
FTA	SMART - Southside Neighborhood Street	\$ 599,426.00	DOMI	2017
		\$ 34,734,010.33		

*This chart does not reflect the totality of federal dollars received indirectly due to lobbying (i.e. LIHTC awarded PHFA)