

*News!*

FEBRUARY 27, 2009

VOLUME III, No. 8



**FY09 APPROPRIATIONS**

On Wednesday the House passed the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill would provide a total of \$69.5 million from the Historic Preservation Fund and includes an increase of over \$3.1 million for SHPOs. The bill also proposes to eliminate funding for Preserve America until there is an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. Below is a breakout of the FY09 funding compared to FY08 levels (which we are currently operating under):

	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>Increase/Decrease</b>
<b>SHPOs</b>	\$42.5	\$39.376	+3.124
<b>THPOs</b>	\$7.0	\$6.3	+.7
<b>SAT</b>	\$20.0	\$24.61	-\$4.61
<b>PA</b>	\$0	\$7.3	-\$7.3

(in millions)

The bill is now being sent to the Senate for approval next week. While Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member, Thad Cochran (R-MS), has indicated he will support the bill, there is still a question as to whether or not conservatives will accept the proposal without modifications. If the bill is amended by the Senate, it must then go back to the House again for a final vote. The current continuing resolution expires next Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.



**FY10 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET**

On Thursday the President unveiled a broad framework of his FY10 budget proposal. The \$3.55 trillion budget contains \$2 trillion in mandatory spending for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and around \$1.4 trillion for discretionary programs, of which \$728 billion is for defense. The budget contains significant increases for health-care, education and energy programs and proposes to increase taxes on business and households earning more than \$250,000.

The President is proposing a \$12 billion budget for the Department of Interior, a 6% increase compared to 2009. Many of the budget details, including funding for the HPF, will not be released until April.

DOI budget highlights released on Thursday can be found at [www.omb.gov](http://www.omb.gov) and include:

\$100 million in additional funds for the NPS to operate and maintain park facilities and \$25 million for the Centennial Challenge program to leverage private donations for parks.

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\$130 million in additional funding to monitor, adaptively manage and assess the impacts of climate change on the Nation's lands, fish and wildlife.

An increase of \$80 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund with a plan for full funding (\$900 million) by 2014.

\$50 million to promote renewable energy projects on Federal lands and waters.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED



Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Congressmen Tim Ryan (D-OH/17) and Brian Higgins (D-NY/27) have introduced legislation to give federal aid and support to cities experiencing major population loss. The bill would create a new, competitive program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, targeted towards cities and metropolitan areas experiencing large-scale property vacancy and abandonment due to long-term employment and population losses. The program would make available funds to find innovative uses for older and historic structures, to demolish abandoned properties, and to create green space and city planning.




**CUTS IN FUNDING + STIMULUS MONEY FLOWING = THE PERFECT STORM** - article from the NTHP State and Local Policy Partners Update, February 2009

What do you get when you unleash a flood of new spending on major capital projects at the same time as you turn off funding for State Historic Preservation Offices? A perfect storm that both threatens historic resources and offers unprecedented opportunities for their revitalization. The Statewide and Local Partners Program, working in concert with our Center for State and Local Policy, has begun to wade

through the details of the recently enacted stimulus package to figure out just what it may mean for preservation projects in your state. At the same time, together with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, we are monitoring state budget cuts that may severely impact the ability of State Historic Preservation Offices to adequately plan for and review major capital improvement projects made possible by the stimulus package.

The NTHP will hold six regional conference calls ([click here to view dates and times](#)) designed to provide information and guidance on how preservation organizations can advocate for pro-preservation stimulus spending in your state. They will also be looking to learn about the state budgets and how they are affecting state preservation programs. If you can't make the call scheduled for your region, please feel free to join another.



	<p><b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</b></p> <p>March 8-11 – NCSHPO Annual Meeting/ Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.</p>
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