



**MEMORANDUM**

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**P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443**

**TO:** MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
**FROM:** TONY O'ROURKE, TOWN MANAGER  
**RE:** Proposal for Federal Advocacy Services  
**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

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The Town of Frisco has many challenges and opportunities as articulated in the Town Council's Strategic Plan. The Town's commitment and focus on affordable housing, wildfire mitigation, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and broadband will require substantial fiscal resources to achieve substantial and sustainable results.

Given the Town's finite resources, it is imperative it seek public and private partners to address the Town's strategic needs and leverage its finite resources. To that end, I would recommend expanding the role of the Town's existing State of Colorado legislature and administrative advocacy representative Squire Patton Boggs to include federal government advocacy on behalf of the Town of Frisco.

Squire Patton Boggs has a significant Public Policy Practice team of experts in Colorado and Washington D.C. dedicated to advocacy behalf of the U.S. Congress, the President of the United States, the Cabinet, and executive departments, agencies and governmental units of the United States government. Their achievements include consistent high-level success in securing federal resources to support local projects and priorities.

The need to have a strong voice and presence in Washington D.C. on behalf of Frisco is both crucial and timely given the Senate passage of the \$ 1.1 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This unprecedented legislation is aimed to enhance the nation's transportation, water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure. House action on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs bill is scheduled for mid to late September. The Infrastructure and Jobs Act includes the following funding opportunities for Frisco.

- **Highway and Freight-** \$550 billion over 5 years for nationally significant freight and highway projects and funding for wildfire recovery and climate resiliency.
- **"\$80 M for NOAA procurement of high-performance computing"** which will be used in part for wildfire protection.
- **Wildfire Management** – \$5.75 billion for natural resources-related infrastructure, wildfire management and restoration"; and \$100 million for NOAA Fireweather Trend program fire prediction forecasting.

- **Public Transit: \$39.2 B** – Funds nation’s transit system repair backlog, which DOT estimates is more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 railcars, 200 stations, and thousands of miles of track, signals, and power systems. Expand transit systems, supports clean transit options, and increases accessibility for senior and persons with disabilities.
- **Broadband: \$65B** – Grants to states for broadband deployment, makes broadband access more affordable for rural area low-income families, expands eligible private activity bond projects to include broadband infrastructure, and supports middle-mile deployment efforts.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging: \$7.5B** – Funds for alternative fuel corridors and to build out a national network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to facilitate long-distance travel and to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop. The federal funding will have a particular focus on rural disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities
- **Reconnecting Communities: \$1B** – Total of \$1 billion between contract authority and new appropriations. Funds for projects that remove barriers to opportunity caused by legacy infrastructure. The program will provide dedicated funding for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure.
- **Water Infrastructure: \$55B** – Includes \$23.4 billion for Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. Provides a historic \$15 billion for lead service line replacement and \$10 billion to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
- **Power and Grid: \$65B** – Includes Energy Infrastructure Act, which includes funds for grid reliability and resiliency and support for a Grid Deployment Authority; critical minerals and supply chains for clean energy technology; key technologies like carbon capture, hydrogen, direct air capture, and energy efficiency; and energy demonstration projects from the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020.
- **Resiliency: \$47.2B** – Funding for cybersecurity to address critical infrastructure needs, waste management, flood and wildfire mitigation, drought, and coastal resiliency, ecosystem restoration, heat stress, and weatherization.
- **Addressing Legacy Pollution: \$21B** – Funds to clean up brownfield and superfund sites, reclaim abandoned mine lands, and plug orphan oil and gas wells, improving public health and creating good-paying jobs.
- **Western Water Infrastructure: \$8.3B** - Funds for Bureau of Reclamation western water infrastructure, including for aging infrastructure, water storage, water recycling and reuse, waterSMART, and drought contingency plans, among other things.

In addition to lobbying for these infrastructure, environmental sustainability and wildfire mitigation funds, Squire Patton Boggs has a successful track record with the Department of Housing and Urban Development on affordable housing issues and with identifying federal grant opportunities to address an array of municipal needs

The House has also passed a \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package that includes significantly more spending for healthcare, climate change programs and childcare. This bill is scheduled for Senate action in mid to late September.

Squire Patton Boggs representation of the Town of Frisco would be year-round and not just limited to when Congress is in session. They would continuously monitor legislative and regulatory developments throughout the calendar year and attend meetings that would be relevant to the Town and its federal agenda. We would utilize the mutually agreed upon communication channels and methods to timely provide feedback, analysis, and advice to the Town's leadership team.

In addition to focusing on the Town Councils core strategic priorities, Squire Patton and Boggs will also advise the Town regarding any miscellaneous intergovernmental/legislative issues, including but not limited to:

- Budgeting, appropriations and grants.
- Federal legislation, including help create new legislation or positioning clients in advantageous position in existing legislative or regulatory process.
- Housing and community development
- Public Safety and homeland security
- Taxation and finance/protection of Revenue Sources
- Parks, recreation and rivers
- Cannabis

Staff would recommend retaining the service of Squire Patton Boggs to advocate the interest of the Town of Frisco before the Federal government at a monthly cost of \$8,333 or an annual cost of \$100,000. We would recommend a contract starting October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022

Retaining Squire Patton Boggs experience and expertise in Washington D.C. is critical, but the Town Council must also play a key role in Federal government advocacy. Under this proposal Squire Patton Boggs would assist the Town's leadership team with preparation, coordination and facilitation of two annual visits to Washington D.C. for in-person meetings with the Colorado federal delegation, other key federal officials and their senior staff members, and other stakeholders. The Squire Patton Boggs Denver-based core team will travel with the town's leadership team. In addition, as a client, the Town's leadership team has the added advantage of having access to Squire Patton Boggs Washington office facilities and amenities to use while in town. The first Washington D.C. trip would tentatively be scheduled in late January 2022. By then we hope Federal agencies and the Capital are open to personal visits which now have been prohibited because of Covid-19 protocols. The cost of these two proposed trips are not included in the Squire Patton Boggs retainer, and it should cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually.

Attached for the Council's review is the Squire Patton Boggs contract for federal advocacy services. Mara Sheldon will be present at the September 14, 2021 Town Council meeting to speak on behalf of Squire Patton Boggs proposal.