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Senate sets key vote on infrastructure package

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Months of negotiations on a massive level of infrastructure investment will come to a head on Capitol Hill this week as Democratic Senate leaders have set a Wednesday vote to move forward with a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure framework that was agreed (<https://www.amwa.net/article/bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-proposes-billions-water-infrastructure>) to by a group of senators and the Biden administration last month.

Senate leaders have been targeting this week to begin consideration of the infrastructure framework, which promises to deliver \$55 billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments. But as of late last week, final language had not been agreed to, leading to speculation that the agreement could fall apart.

Meanwhile, last week Senate Democratic leaders announced agreement on a separate \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package that could carry numerous other priorities of the Biden administration, including additional water infrastructure funding beyond the \$55 billion in the bipartisan framework. The reconciliation legislation will be immune from the Senate filibuster, allowing it to pass without any Republican votes if all Democrats remain united in support. The process will get underway in the coming weeks with the Senate voting to approve a budget resolution that formalizes the \$3.5 trillion deal and giving instructions to Senate committees to produce legislation that specifies how the pot of funds would be divided among various priorities. The final \$3.5 trillion package would likely receive a vote in the Senate sometime in the fall.

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