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TISPC NOVEMBER 13, 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Monday, November 15th, the legislative budget conferees are scheduled to sign the conference report. The first time the public will see the conference report will be when it is read in during the Senate session. Currently, the Senate is scheduled to have budget voting sessions Tuesday and Wednesday, while the House will be voting Wednesday and Thursday. There has been no official communication whether the governor will veto, but the rumor is the votes are available in both chambers for a veto override. Once the budget conference report passes both chambers and is sent to the Governor, he has ten days to veto. Below are possible budget conference provisions that were discussed at the October TISPC meeting. An analysis will be done of the conference report when available and strategies put in place to maximize all funding options available to the Island.

- \$40M coastal storm mitigation fund, probably in conference report was in House budget and HB500 Disaster Relief and Mitigation act of 2021
- Department of Public Safety to provide nearly \$51M of directed grants for individual towns for disaster relief and recovery/mitigation/resiliency projects. The number of towns and amount may have been reduced in conference.
- The three years of funding for the Surf City/North Topsail 50 yr project is in the conference report for a total of \$41,574,000. The decision was made to keep the language awaiting a decision from the Corp.
- North Topsail Beach will get more flexibility for its Shoreline Protection project by allowing funds previously allocated for the project to be used for Phase 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- Good probability the resilient roof grant program in the House budget will be in the conference report. Applicants must provide a match of \$1.00 in non-State funds for \$1.00 provided in State grant funds. No eligible structure could receive more than \$6,000 in State funds under this program.
- \$25M non-recurring for certain flood reduction projects from SERDRF will probably be in the conference report. Originally in the House budget and H500.
- \$20M to a new Disaster Relief and Mitigation special fund for state agencies, non-profits, and local governments to use for flood mitigation efforts will probably be in the conference report. Was in the House budget and H500.
- \$100,000,000 for a new program (DEQ) to provide grants to local governments for stormwater infrastructure probably in conference report. Was in both the House and Senate budget.