

2023-2024 Federal Lobbying Report & Update for the City of Virginia Beach, VA

Becker DC Team
January 02, 2024

THE
Becker
ADVANTAGE

National Law & Lobbying Firm with over **50 years** of experience.

15 Bicoastal Offices: Washington, DC, Florida, New York, New Jersey, California.

Diverse and bipartisan team of Virginia-experienced lobbyists

Local knowledge. Regional ties.
National reach.

Named “**Top Performing Lobbying Firm**” by *Bloomberg Government*.

YOUR FEDERAL LOBBYING TEAM



ALFONSO LOPEZ
CO-LEAD LOBBYIST



ANTHONY BEDELL
CO-LEAD LOBBYIST



OMAR FRANCO
TEAM MEMBER



AMANDA WOOD
TEAM MEMBER



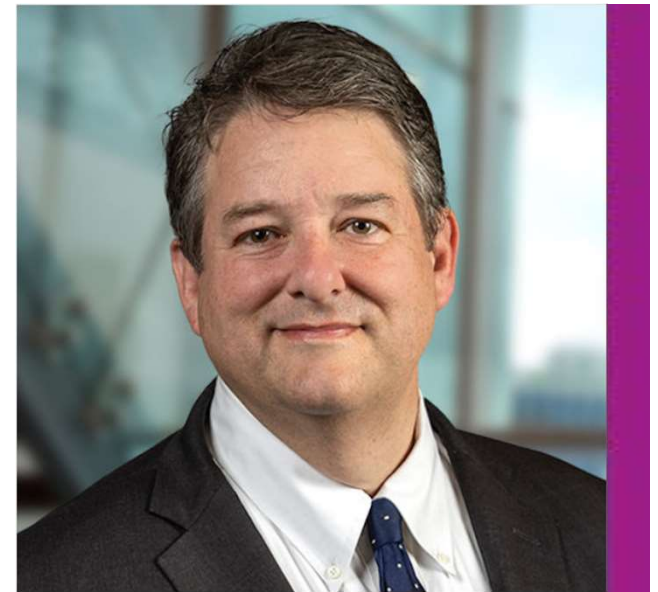
CLARENCE WILLIAMS
TEAM MEMBER



PERRY ADAIR
TEAM MEMBER

ALFONSO LOPEZ

- Over 30 years of Federal and Virginia legislative experience
- Former U.S. Senate staffer and Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration for Congressional & Intergovernmental Affairs during the Obama Administration
- Director of Federal & Congressional Affairs for the Commonwealth of Virginia during the Administration of Governor Tim Kaine
- Currently represents the 3rd District in the Virginia House of Delegates



ANTHONY BEDELL

- Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation
- Also served in key roles at the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Small Business Administration
- Over 24 years of federal, state, and local government experience
- Called “Influential lobbying firepower” – *Politico*



A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2023

Working with Brent McKenzie, the Director of Legislative Affairs for the City, and Andrew Damon, our team has pursued an aggressive strategy for taking advantage of unique federal opportunities available to support the City's needs and mission – including:

- Federal Grants,
- Historic Comprehensive Infrastructure legislation
- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) – also known as Appropriation Earmarks.

The Becker Team is proud to report that in terms of increased revenue funding and grants for the city, policy support, and federal approval for city initiatives – we have had an incredibly successful year.

2023 RESULTS

- Secured **\$49.5 million in total federal grant funding*** - this is an increase from \$48.4 million secured in 2022.
- Secured **\$7.993 million in *preliminary earmarks*** in pending FY24 appropriations bills. We are still waiting on Congress to pass the full FY 2024 Appropriations Bill. At that time, we expect all included earmarks to be sent to the City.

**This includes a recent \$14.9 million SS4A grant award for which a grant funding agreement is pending*

BREAKDOWN OF 2023 FEDERAL AWARDS

- Of the **\$49.5 million** in federal grant funding:

Competitive Grant Awards	Formula/Block Grant Awards
\$14.9 million in Transportation grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discretionary Safe Streets and Roads for All grant award 	\$6,490,354 in Housing & Urban Development grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formula grants such as CBDG, Home Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities, and Emergency Solutions • Family Self Sufficiency Program grant
\$13,439,126 in Defense grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 Education at Military-Connected Schools & Community Investment grants 	\$72,122 in Justice grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byrne Justice Assistance block grant
\$3,900,899 in Homeland Security grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discretionary FEMA grants including Assistance to Firefighters, Port Security, and National Urban Search & Rescue 	
\$1,500,000 in Justice grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass-through of FY23 earmark funding for Law Enforcement Training Facilities project 	

- Of the **\$7,993,000** in *preliminary* earmarks:
 - **\$3,900,000**: Rudee Inlet project through Army Corps
 - **\$3,000,000**: Laskin Road Phase I-B project
 - **\$693,000**: Creeds Training Facility Project
 - **\$400,000**: Virginia Beach & Vicinity Coastal Zone Management Study through Army Corps

2024 PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **FY 2025 Appropriations Process** – A diversified portfolio of top tier targets
 - **THUD, LHHS, and CJS** subcommittees for **programmatic** opportunities in transportation, emergency preparedness, community development, housing, resiliency, and public safety
 - **Earmarks** from VA congressional delegation members
 - *The City’s Congressional delegation is expected to **once again accept programmatic and earmark requests in FY25, and your Becker Team will keep the Council and City Manager’s office updated on guidance and deadlines.***
 - **HOWEVER, the timing** of the FY 25 process remains an open question with FY24 appropriations still pending under a “laddered” CR and slated budget cuts under the June 2022 debt limit agreement (**more on next slide**).
- **Key Annual Congressional Authorizations** –
 - Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization – 10x6 “Comprehensive Regional Coastal Storm Risk Management Study” Update
- **Federal grants** – A wide range of funding opportunities:
 - Flooding and storm resiliency, including BRIC funding
 - Police & fire department projects (ex., COPS, AFG)
 - Infrastructure Bill opportunities, including surface transportation and connectivity



FY25 Appropriations Process

- A typical appropriations cycle roughly mirrors the timeframe to the right.
- **However**, the FY25 process will likely be **affected** by the current “**laddered**” **stopgap bill** that staggers government funding in two groups, effectively creating **two shutdown dates: January 19th and February 2nd**.
- The FY25 process will be **further affected** by the June 2023 **debt limit agreement** imposing budget cuts if Congress fails to reach a year-end funding agreement.
- Under the agreement, if Congress fails to pass appropriations by December 31, 2023, it will **trigger** an automatic full-year continuing resolution with a **1% cut**.
- Missing the date would trigger the cuts, but the **effects would not be enacted/felt until April 15**.
- Therefore, we expect Members to begin soliciting FY25 appropriations requests **earlier than expected (January/February)** to get ahead of the laddered CR dates and expected April 15th cuts.

Typical Timeframe	Expected Action
February/March	Submit appropriations and earmark requests
March/April	Members of Congress prioritize submissions and send top picks to the relevant appropriations subcommittee
May/June	Subcommittees release draft appropriations bills with selected submissions
Fall/Winter	Congress passes the annual appropriations bill

LOOKING AHEAD: POTENTIAL ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- FY 2025 Appropriations Funding – A diversified portfolio of targets
- Highway, Intermodal, including RAISE Grants
- Continued Infrastructure Bill Funding
- Stormwater, Resiliency & Flooding Relief
- DHS/FEMA - including BRIC Grants
- Local Military HQ & Oceana
- Community Development/HUD Funding
- U.S. Department of Justice Opportunities
- Museum & Library Funding
- Possible K-12 Schools Programmatic Funding Support

