

State Aid Update – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 21

Legislative Budget Conference News

The House and Senate Appropriations Conferees for Transportation and Economic Development (TED) met Tuesday afternoon, April 20 at 5:15 and again this morning and this afternoon. Both the House and Senate held firm with their State Aid to Public Libraries positions: the Senate at \$21.2 million and the House at \$0 although House members are working hard to fund State Aid.

The House and Senate TED Appropriations Conferees have approved their budget, and “bumped” State Aid to the Budget Chairs. That group will meet Thursday afternoon at 5:30 p.m.

We can narrow our focus to the Governor and legislative leadership, including the TED Chairs. Budget issues that are still unresolved will be forwarded on Saturday, April 24 to the Presiding Officers.

FLA Lobbyist Chris Lyon is in regular contact with Senate TED Chair Fasano and House TED Chair Glorioso and they are trying to figure out how to get the full amount approved.

Yesterday we asked advocates to focus on how libraries support Florida’s economy in their communications. That message still works as well as does the simpler, “Please fund the State Aid to Public Libraries at the current #21.2 million!”

Since 2 p.m. April 20, 964 folks have used CapWiz to send 9,647 messages and we are getting close to 50,000 CapWiz messages for this legislative session.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this effort. We've heard reports about Twittering, FaceBook, and folks activating their personal networks. The Florida Association of Counties also pushed out our message on Tuesday.

Please keep it up – and please keep it positive!

Charlie Parker, Chair
FLA Legislative Committee