



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

SUMMARY

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) represents a historic investment in the nation's infrastructure and is a significant step to reduce our growing infrastructure investment gap. The *2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure* gave the nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "C-" and found that across all levels of government the country was anticipated to underinvest in our infrastructure by nearly \$2.6 trillion over the next decade.

The passage of the IIJA provides the down payment needed to revitalize the nation's infrastructure and ensure that we are building for the future. It is now critical that the law is implemented efficiently, and resources used wisely, because there are infrastructure projects across the nation that need urgent attention. The nation's civil engineers stand ready to work with federal, state, and local governments as this once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure is implemented over the upcoming years.

Key Points

- ASCE strongly supported the passage of the IIJA, which is the culmination of decades of advocacy work by ASCE members who have worked tirelessly to educate Congress and the public about the role infrastructure plays in supporting the economy and our quality of life in communities both large and small.
- The IIJA provides \$550 billion in new infrastructure spending over the next five years, and includes reauthorizations of critical federal infrastructure programs, such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and federal highway and transit spending.
- The IIJA includes funding for all 17 categories included in the 2021 Infrastructure Report Card, as well as nearly 50 recommendations to raise the grades. Funding is broken out between over 350 distinct programs and across more than a dozen federal agencies.
- The IIJA allows for strategic investments that will build our infrastructure so that it is not only safe and fit for the future, but more resilient, with \$50 billion dedicated to resilience priorities.
- ASCE thanks Congress and the Administration for the passage of the IIJA, but now the hard work begins as federal, state, and local government agencies work to effectively deploy these historic investments.
- Now is the time to build in the momentum of the IIJA and for the first time in decades take significant steps to revitalize our aging infrastructure. Any legislation suspending the federal gas tax is a major step backward and threatens the work that Congress and the Administration put into place with the enactment of the IIJA last year.

ASCE's Priorities for Implementation

The nation's civil engineers stand ready to lend their technical expertise to ensure that programs are implemented strategically with a focus on maintaining and modernizing the nation's infrastructure. As formula and discretionary funding is allocated, ASCE believes that both new and existing programs can be deployed effectively by:

- Prioritizing projects that are dedicated to maintaining and improving the nation's existing critical infrastructure assets.
- Incentivizing asset management plans and life cycle cost analysis for projects applying for competitive grants.
- Encouraging the use of the most up-to-date codes and standards to ensure infrastructure is built for the future and sustainable.
- Providing technical assistance to rural and disadvantaged communities to guarantee an equal playing field for competitive grant programs across all infrastructure sectors.
- Dedicating resources to continue to grow the workforce pipeline and ensure that the country has the highly technical workforce that is necessary to build, design, and maintain the nation's infrastructure.
- Enhancing research and innovation opportunities which can result in improved resilience, reduced life-cycle costs, and enhanced sustainability.
- Streamlining the engineering contracting process so that projects are not delayed due to prolonged contract negotiations



Background

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the bipartisan, \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law. This historic legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 69 – 30 and the House by a vote of 228 – 206. Now that the bill has been signed into law, federal agencies, as well as state and local governments, will be responsible for prioritizing and allocating an infusion of billions of dollars to modernize our nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, drinking water pipes, school facilities, broadband, ports, airports and more.



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