

REBUILDING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS
INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP



America's infrastructure supports the world's largest economy across a network of nearly 9 million miles of roadway, 160,000 public water systems, 5.5 million miles of local electrical distribution lines, and nearly 90 million fixed broadband subscribers. Unfortunately, due to years of underinvestment and deferred maintenance, America is no longer keeping pace and continues to fall behind other countries.

Rebuilding America's Infrastructure details bipartisan policy solutions to improve surface transportation, port and inland waterway, aviation, water and wastewater, energy, and communications infrastructure. By modernizing existing user fees, incentivizing private investment, making smarter investments with limited federal dollars, and increasing accountability to taxpayers, this working group believes we can build a 21st Century infrastructure network that will foster a truly 21st Century economy that works for every single American.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS



FUNDING, FINANCING, AND REGULATORY REFORMS

The federal government must address funding shortfalls to keep pace with growth and demand while ensuring transparency and accountability, providing incentives for new and innovative forms of financing and private sector participation, streamlining approval processes, and increasing utilization by rural and small local governments.



MODERNIZE AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal funding has failed to keep pace with growing infrastructure investment needs and has led to a vast backlog of deferred maintenance in existing infrastructure. The report details a number of bipartisan solutions that will ensure long-term sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund and strengthen current funding and financing options, including but not limited to:

- Reexamining our current funding tools and ending repeated transfers from the general fund to address revenue shortfalls
- Considering alternative user fees that take into account road impact and changes in technology and mobility use
- Strengthening TIFIA, RRIF, and the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Demonstration Program



ENSURE WORLD CLASS PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS

The failure to properly fund dredging and to accommodate Post-Panamax ships is causing the United States to lose business to Canada and Mexico, and places our national security in jeopardy as more goods are brought overland through our borders. The report details bipartisan solutions to help revitalize our ports and inland waterways, including but not limited to:

- Dedicating 100% of revenue raised for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to its intended purpose
- Ensuring the U.S. Army Corps is utilizing the dormant WIFIA loan guarantee program to address their backlog of projects



Port of Miami



ENSURE SAFE, CLEAN, AND SUSTAINABLE WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Years of underfunding, underpricing of water and sanitary services, and increased federal regulatory mandates with declining financial support have led to the current state of aged and overburdened water and wastewater systems across our country. The report details bipartisan solutions to help address this backlog in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

- Increasing access to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and WIFIA
- Promoting the research, development, and implementation of new technologies that can improve water systems and save taxpayers money



ENERGY

Federal policies have failed to keep pace with the innovation and growth seen in the energy sector. Over burdensome laws, regulations, permit processes as well as growing security threats, have stymied the investment and buildout of our energy infrastructure. The report recommends:

- Strengthening federal funding for rural energy infrastructure, critical energy research, and power grid modernization efforts
- Building on efforts to address cyber and physical security threats to energy infrastructure



BROADBAND AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

The internet is a vital part of America's social fabric and commercial lifeblood. The report calls on Congress to:

- Address funding shortfalls within the FCC's Universal Service Fund by modernizing the service fee currently applied to telephone calls
- Incentivize dig once policies to reduce the cost and difficulty of installing fiber after construction



AVIATION

With airports facing larger traffic volumes than ever before, Congress needs to empower our airports and air traffic control systems to keep up with growing demand by:

- Debating a bipartisan, long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration



JFK International Airport