

STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

\$1 Trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and the Impact on the Transportation Industry

On November 15, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, into law. This comes after the Senate passed the bill on August 10th and the House of Representatives passed their motion on November 5th. The White House released the following statement on the law passing.

“The legislation includes around \$550 billion in new federal investment in America’s roads and bridges, water infrastructure, resilience, internet, and more. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will grow the economy, enhance our competitiveness, create good jobs, and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and just.”

The transportation industry is just one of the many industries that will benefit from the infrastructure bill. The aging bridges across the U.S. and the poor conditions on public roadways continue to pose challenges for truckers. The American Trucking Associations attended the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act White House signing ceremony to support the bill for the industry. The following components and allocated spending of the infrastructure bill will help the transportation industry and the deteriorating infrastructure:

- Roads and bridges have been allocated \$110 billion for repairs, replacement and major projects;
- \$66 billion is dedicated to passenger and freight railways for maintenance, upgrades and new rail services;
- Airports and waterways, including port infrastructure, have received \$42 billion of the allocation;
- Public transit has been allocated \$39 billion to modernize transit programs; and
- \$11 billion will be spent on transportation safety



Roads and Bridges

The focus will be on repairing the roads and bridges, while supporting major transformational projects. Concerning repairing and reconstructing bridges, the largest investment will be on significant bridges, along with thousands of smaller bridges. The infrastructure bill creates the Bridge Investment Program to provide financial assistance for eligible projects under this section.

The goals of the program include improving safety, efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges. Improvements of bridges conditions will reduce the number of bridges in poor conditions or in fair conditions that are at risk of falling into poor conditions within the next three years. Other significant grant programs in this section include, Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants, National Infrastructure Project Assistance grant program and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. The Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 is also contained in this section of the bill. Funding comes from

the Highway Trust Fund for improvements and repairs for highways and bridges

Railways

Funding for railways will be the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak. A significant amount of funding will be dedicated to the Amtrak National Network to modernize existing networks and stations, along with safety and technology enhancements. Investments in this sector are needed to increase the U.S. footprint in rail with reliability, speed and coverage passenger rail.

Airports and Port Infrastructure

According to the White House this section of the bill will “upgrade our nation’s airports and ports to strengthen our supply chains and prevent disruptions that have caused inflation. This will improve U.S. competitiveness, create more and better jobs at these hubs, and reduce emissions. Decades of neglect and underinvestment in our infrastructure have left the links in our goods movement supply chains struggling to keep up with our strong economic recovery from the pandemic.”

Additionally, the White House states that “Modern, resilient, and sustainable port, airport, and freight infrastructure will strengthen our supply chains and support U.S. competitiveness by removing bottlenecks and expediting commerce and reduce the environmental impact on neighboring communities.”

Public Transit

Funding in this section of the bill will provide new funding to address the needs of the public transit sector. The State of Good Repair grants will help with transit assets that are in poor condition or transit systems with a backlog in deferred maintenance and replacement. Replacement expands over 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations and thousands of other systems in need of replacement.

Additional programs in this section, including the Capital Investment Grants Program, will also fund construction of new systems or expansion of existing systems. The Transit Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities will fund projects to eliminate barriers for seniors and persons with disabilities. The Low-No Program will foster zero-emission or low-emission transit buses to reduce greenhouse emissions.



Transportation Safety

A research plan will be created to prioritize research on roadway designs with developments of safety countermeasures to minimize fatalities and serious injuries to vulnerable road users. The Safe Streets and Roads for All programs will support the projects to reduce crashes and traffic fatalities.

Additional contracts will be made between the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The FMCSA will focus of commercial motor vehicle safety and training issues, while the NHTSA will be charged with writing and enforcing the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. The NHTSA Highway Safety Program supports another important initiative to improve driver behavior and safety.

An article Transport Topics published in August 2021, highlighted further benefits to the industry; “Specific to trucking, it would approve an apprenticeship for truckers younger than 21 to operate commercial vehicles interstate. The bill would establish a truck leasing task force, direct the secretary of transportation to further research side-underride guards for commercial vehicles, and require the U.S. Department of Transportation to analyze the cost and effectiveness of electronic logging devices, as well as examine the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s review of ELDs. The bill also

would require certain commercial motor vehicles to be equipped with an automatic emergency braking system within two years of the bill's enactment.”

There are many benefits to the transportation industry and the U.S. Department of Transportation has further highlighted the benefits by state. The infrastructure in Ohio has been deteriorating and the following are some highlights summarized from the U.S. Department of Transportation listed for Ohio:

- Ohio should expect to receive approximately \$9.8 billion over five years in Federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges;
- Apart of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Ohio will receive approximately \$61 million for highway safety traffic programs;
- To support the “vision zero” emissions project, Ohio will be eligible to compete for \$6 billion in funding for a new Safe Streets for All program;
- Ohio should expect to receive approximately \$1.4 million over five years to improve public transportation options across the state;
- In addition to the Amtrak grants, Ohio will be eligible to compete for \$5 billion in rail improvement and safety grants and \$3 billion for grade crossing safety improvements;
- Ohio should expect to receive approximately \$253 million over five years for developments in airports.

As the deteriorating infrastructure on our roads and bridges continues, the signing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will help improve the roads and bridges we all rely on.



Ohio Trucking Association

The Ohio Trucking Association is a 100-year-old full-service trade association operating in Columbus, Ohio. With over 815 total members in the trucking, logistics, warehousing and moving industries, our promise to our members is simple: the Ohio Trucking Association will work to improve operational efficiency, profitability and relevancy for all of Ohio's transportation industry. Advocacy, professional development, networking and cost savings initiatives are the keys to carrying out this promise to our members. No matter what the cause, our industry is stronger when operating as one. We encourage you to explore more about becoming involved with the Ohio Trucking Association at www.joinota.com.

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE

President & CEO
(614) 653-0290
tom@ohiotrucking.org

Irwin Shires

Vice-President of Education
and Engagement
(614) 633-5449
irwin@ohiotrucking.org

Bradie Berry

Vice President of
Meetings & Events
(614) 519-6462
bradie@ohiotrucking.org

Nick Miller

Vice President of Membership
(614) 653-1991
nick@ohiotrucking.org

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Carl D. Scharf, CPA

Shareholder, Tax Services
(614) 586-7139
cscharf@schneiderdowns.com

Michael A. Renzelman, CPA

Shareholder, Audit and Assurance Services
(614) 586-7203
mrenzelman@schneiderdowns.com

For more information about this topic, please visit
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655 Cooper Road
Westerville, OH 43081



65 East State Street
Suite 2000
Columbus, OH 43215

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