



POLICY PRIORITIES

For the 117th Congress

AN INFRASTRUCTURE-BASED ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR AMERICA

Infrastructure investment should be the centerpiece of a national economic recovery agenda. The Biden Administration has proposed a very ambitious American Jobs Plan that includes significant investments in the built environment. Congress also needs to pass legislation to reauthorize and expand federal surface transportation programs under the FAST Act. This represents a generational opportunity to address years of deferred maintenance and modernize our physical assets to improve competitiveness, enhance safety, bolster resilience, and provide the foundation for a robust and long-term economic recovery.

ACEC supports four key objectives for the recovery agenda:

Increased Investment:

- Direct supplemental funding to long-term capital improvements in surface transportation networks, airports, drinking water and wastewater systems, ports, harbors, waterways, the electric grid, broadband deployment, and public buildings, using existing federal programs where possible to ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Enact a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization of federal highway and bridge, transit, and rail programs, and ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Reauthorize and reform water and wastewater programs through the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act state revolving funds (SRF), and other grant programs.
- Leverage private investment through Private Activity Bonds, tax incentives, and other financing options.

Climate Change and Infrastructure Resilience

- Incorporate an emphasis on adaptation, resilience, and innovation to meet the impacts of climate change in all federal infrastructure programs.
- Provide financial and other resources to equip federal, state, and local agencies with the tools to routinely and holistically assess threats and mitigate future hazards.

Contracting Policies to Promote Innovative Project Delivery

- Promote a robust partnership between public agencies and highly qualified engineering firms to efficiently deliver infrastructure projects to the public.
- Oppose provisions that seek to mandate certain construction materials and interfere with decisions that should be made by licensed engineers.

Modernized Regulations for Efficient Project Delivery

- Continue to support resources and flexibilities to simplify regulatory reviews while advancing environmental performance and public interest protections, including social equity and environmental justice considerations.