

# BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investment is essential to moving America forward. Yet, much of our nation's infrastructure needs to be repaired and modernized to meet today's demands.

Local governments and states have stepped up over the past 10 years with more than \$3.8 trillion in municipal bonds to address their most pressing infrastructure needs. However, a \$2 trillion infrastructure funding gap remains for our nation's transportation and water networks. This number does not reflect the costs of expanding broadband access, addressing climate change, and investing in workforce development and training programs. The costs of continued inaction are staggering. Strategic investments in our infrastructure will support a growing and strong economy.

## Transportation

America's transportation problems far exceed available funding and how we move as a country is changing. Increasingly clogged and potholed roads now host more traffic along with innovative ride-share services, "micro-mobility" options like shared bikes and scooters, rapid buses and more. Many necessary projects are also ineligible for federal support, creating clear divisions – 35% of non-interstate urban roads are in poor condition, compared to just 6% of the better-supported urban interstates. Cities, towns and villages are investing in transportation from their own budgets and ballot initiatives, including innovative, sustainable solutions. The federal government must step up as an equal partner to leverage local investment, improve roads and increase safety.

### TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, WE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO:

- ➔ Partner with local governments to rebuild and fully fund the nation's transportation needs, better connect our regions, and innovate with technology and sustainable solutions.
- ➔ Work with local governments to expand

and implement new revenue mechanisms that reflect the true cost of every mode of transportation, provide direct resources for regional priorities, and can grow with the country's transportation network.

- ➔ Increase grant funding and flexibility to save the lives of riders, bikers and pedestrians through Road to Zero and safety projects.

## Water

Much of the nation's water infrastructure was built in the post-World War II period—and some of it is more than 100 years old. It's no wonder there are an estimated 240,000 water main breaks across the country each year, according to the American Society for Civil Engineers. Adding to the challenge for local governments are new costly and complex federal mandates that are driving local water and sewer rates to levels that are unaffordable for many residents. Local government investments account for nearly 98% of all water and sewer infrastructure spending, including more than \$125 billion in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The federal government should recommit to being a significant partner in investing in our nation's water infrastructure.

## **TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, WE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO:**

- ➔ Fully fund water infrastructure finance mechanisms, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), and support other mechanisms for financing infrastructure.
- ➔ Provide direct funding for local efforts to manage stormwater, improve system resiliency, address lead and other drinking water contaminants, promote water infrastructure-related workforce development, and accelerate the use of innovative technologies.
- ➔ Support and promote policy solutions that provide flexibility to local governments in meeting environmental requirements, such as integrated planning, extended pollution discharge permits, and a revised affordability framework.

## **Broadband**

Broadband is the infrastructure backbone of a modern economy. Demand for connectivity has only increased as jobs, education, healthcare, and government services shift online. However, too many households and communities remain unconnected, either because of inadequate infrastructure or unaffordable broadband subscription. Federal, state, and local broadband investments are currently hampered by insufficient data collection on broadband access. In addition to investing in better data, the federal government must empower local governments to invest in and regulate broadband service.

## **TO ENSURE THAT RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE BROADBAND SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL, WE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO:**

- ➔ Expand broadband access in underserved communities by eliminating state barriers to municipal broadband networks.
- ➔ Increase the flexibility of federal programs

within the Universal Service Fund to allow community anchor institutions to serve as springboards for wider broadband access within the community.

- ➔ Improve the quality of federal broadband maps to include a street-level understanding of broadband access, actual service speeds, and subscription costs.
- ➔ Empower communities to use their contracting, franchising, and oversight powers to prevent and prohibit digital redlining.

## **Community Resilience**

Cities across the country are seeing the effects of climate change and are taking action to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events on their residents and businesses. With heat waves, droughts, wildland fires, heavy downpours, floods, and hurricanes becoming more frequent and more severe, communities need to be able to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to these events. Extreme weather can cost local, state and federal governments trillions of dollars and severely impact local and regional infrastructure, the economy, public safety, public health, natural landscapes, environmental quality and national security.

## **TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND MODERNIZE OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE, WE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO:**

- ➔ Take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across a broad sector of the economy, including transportation networks and energy production and consumption.
- ➔ Support local adaptation efforts, including vulnerability assessments and emergency management planning, to prepare cities and residents for climate impacts that may be unavoidable.
- ➔ Provide grants, tools and resources to support local efforts to strengthen infrastructure and make communities safer and more resilient in the face of extreme weather events.