



Rebuild With Us Talking Points

Cities call on Congress to develop an infrastructure plan that works collaboratively with cities and reflects six guiding principles:

- **Sustainable Investment.** Together, cities and our federal partners must address the existing core infrastructure backlog, reestablish long-term funding and use new technologies that will serve America’s cities for the next 100 years.
- **Locally-Driven Projects.** Local leaders, from cities large and small, are best positioned to identify where infrastructure needs are greatest and should be given a stronger voice in how limited federal dollars are invested in their communities.
- **Federal-Local Partnership.** Cities are already paying their fair share and need a steady federal partner to fund existing national programs and make significant capital investments for the long-term benefit of the economy.
- **Expand Revenue Tools.** Cities should be given more flexibility to raise revenues and use innovative financing techniques while protecting existing tools, such as tax-exempt bonds, to drive regional investments that tie into the national network.
- **Strong Communities.** Cities and our federal partners must make investments that will strengthen our infrastructure and our communities before disaster strikes to ensure they can withstand extreme weather events.
- **Rebuild and Reimagine.** Cities are leading the way in building intermodal, sustainable and interconnected infrastructure networks that support a modern economy. Congress must invest in cities’ vision to rebuild and reimagine America’s infrastructure.

Why Cities are Focused on Infrastructure NOW

- City leaders are focused on **solving big infrastructure problems** in our communities and must have a say in determining how limited federal dollars are spent.
- In many areas, our nation’s infrastructure is structurally deficient or nearing the end of its useful life span. **State and local governments cannot address this challenge alone.** Due to insufficient investments:
 - Drinking water infrastructure needs at least **\$1 trillion** over the next 25 years to provide safe water to homes and businesses and the need for wastewater infrastructure exceeds more than **\$271 billion**.
 - Likewise, there is about **\$2 trillion** in highway and bridge capital needs. All the while, Americans are taking 188 million trips over structurally deficient bridges **each day**.
- An infrastructure package should be **in addition to** annual appropriations for programs that support the economy and infrastructure investments:
 - **State Revolving Funds** for clean and safe water infrastructure;

- **TIGER** and **Transit New Starts**, which have made innovative transit projects possible for large and small cities; and
 - **CDBG** that funds programs and infrastructure projects that can be transformative for the quality of life in our communities.
- Lawmakers in Washington have proven time and again that they can strike **significant, bipartisan compromise** when it comes to investing in America’s infrastructure.
 - **We look forward to helping Congress craft a plan that moves all cities forward.** City leaders are on the front lines dealing with infrastructure breaks and we know where a federal dollar can go the farthest.

Paying for Infrastructure is a Joint Responsibility

- **Cities don’t all have the same tools to raise revenue and pay for infrastructure projects.** Due to preemption of local authority by state legislatures, cities in 47 states face one or more limitations on how they raise funds for infrastructure.
 - And an important tool to cities was eliminated in tax reform - **advance refunding bonds** - that enabled cities to achieve lower interest rates on municipal debt. NLC strongly supports the newly introduced H.R. 5003, which would allow cities to lower interest costs on existing debt and free up more capital for infrastructure.
- **Cities are already paying their fair share and cannot address the infrastructure gap alone.** Over 75% of all transportation projects and 95% of all water infrastructure projects are paid for by municipalities and states, amounting to more than \$320 billion, versus \$96 billion from federal sources.
 - **< Share your city’s infrastructure story >**
 - What are the greatest infrastructure needs in your city?
 - How is your city investing in infrastructure improvements? Do you utilize federal funds to fix your city’s infrastructure?
 - Why is a federal partnership on infrastructure important to your city?
 - Do you have the trained and available workforce needed to complete these projects? How could federal investment in workforce programs that bridge the skills gap help your community meet your current and ongoing infrastructure needs?
- **The federal budget should reflect our shared priorities on infrastructure.** Funding for every federal program that advances infrastructure should be beyond debate, including those that invest in bridging the skills gap to ensure that we have the workforce needed to build this infrastructure.