



## Write an Op-Ed

*Members of Congress and their staff keep a close eye on local and regional media outlets because it helps them stay up-to-date with what's happening in their districts and states. You can use a well-crafted opinion-editorial ("op-ed") piece published in your local newspaper to grab the attention of a staff person or legislator and discuss why we need Congress to work with cities to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure.*

Op-eds are generally 750 words or less. While they do not need to be in response to a specific article in the paper, they should be timely and in connection to current events. You can increase your op-eds chances of publication by using the below tips:

- **Focus on a single point, and put it at the beginning of your op-ed.**
- **Establish your credibility as a local leader.**
- **Use plain language and your personal voice, rather than "academic" language or jargon.**
- **Make it personal - be sure to relate your op-ed to how you leverage federal funds to build your city, rather than dry facts or generalities.**
- **End strong, with a call to action for Congress to partner with cities and invest in our vision to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure.**

Below is a template op-ed that should be customized to reflect the infrastructure challenges your city is facing and how you're using existing federal funding to make improvements to your city's infrastructure.

Please notify us at [advocacy@nlc.org](mailto:advocacy@nlc.org) when you have published an op-ed and tweet a link to the piece using the hashtag #RebuildWithUs to connect your posts to the ongoing conversation.

# Op-Ed Template

## Headline: Congress must rebuild America's infrastructure with cities

In [insert city name], [describe your city's infrastructure challenges and how you are using existing funding to make improvements or innovate].

Across the country, cities and towns like [insert city name] are repaving roads, upgrading water treatment systems, expanding broadband access and addressing the critical infrastructure needs of the future. But because we're restricted in how we fund these projects, there are limits to what we can accomplish alone. We need a strong partner in the federal government.

While the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 provides a down payment for infrastructure investment, the additional \$10 billion allocated doesn't come close to meeting the \$2.0 trillion needed to restore our nation's infrastructure to good working order. We need Congress to prioritize an infrastructure plan that will improve our nation's water, broadband, and transportation infrastructure and invests in our nation's workforce.

As a city leader and a member of the National League of Cities (NLC), I'm standing strong together with more than 19,000 fellow city leaders to represent our community and ensure that the federal government understands the infrastructure needs of our cities. [What's your story of NLC membership? Did you come to a conference? Make a connection or find an opportunity?]

That's why I'm calling on Congress to partner with cities and develop an infrastructure plan that invests in our vision to build intermodal, sustainable and interconnected infrastructure networks that support a modern economy. Our country is greatest when we invest in building great things and support working families.

America's infrastructure problems cannot wait. It's time for Congress to work with cities to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure. I hope you'll rebuild with us.