



REBUILD WITH US.

REBUILD AND REIMAGINE AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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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.



TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION



PREPARING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

NLC calls on Congress to modernize our nation's transportation infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Ensure **transportation programs are right-sized** to meet the needs of cities of all sizes;
- Allow flexibility for **targeted grants to be used for any transportation solution** that eases congestion and improves Americans' commutes – from bike paths to bus rapid transit to transportation flow management;
- Expand the **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program** to provide cities direct, flexible funding to invest in high priority projects across modes;
- Increase grant funding and flexibility to save the lives of riders, bikers and pedestrians through **local Road to Zero and "Safe System" projects** to reduce deaths on urban and rural roads to zero;
- **Modernize data-sharing** across all U.S. Department of Transportation programs to ensure real-time and accessible data is available for cities and regions to use for planning and congestion management;
- Provide additional federal resources and coordination to help **"Smart Cities"** of all sizes scale up research and pilot deployments of future transportation solutions;
- Learn from TIGER/BUILD success by encouraging grants for **local and multimodal projects of significance** with stable grant structures and adequate resources for success;
- Increase **transit capital funding certainty** for cities and grow multimodal options as a congestion-fighter in busy regions;
- Incentivize zero- or low-emission vehicles of all types and deploy transportation-energy efficiency pilots to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation**; and
- Require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to move quickly to set **safety standards for autonomous vehicles** to alleviate concerns and continue piloting in cities nationwide.

NLC calls on Congress to invest in our nation's workforce by passing legislation that will:

- Provide full appropriation to programs that build on the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**;
- **Create additional workforce funding and training programs**, such as the aviation maintenance technician program as authorized within the FAA bill and the water workforce development program within the America's Water Infrastructure Act;
- Expand dedicated funding for **sector-based partnerships** that would jump-start local infrastructure projects and maintain necessary skilled labor;
- Expand funding and opportunities for local programs that increase overall awareness, diversity and equity, and bridge the skills gap for those interested in an **apprenticeship program**;
- Connect investments to existing local **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs** and workforce development board initiatives focused on infrastructure skill development;
- Expand the **Pell Grant program** to cover needed workforce skills training for short-term and certificate training programs;
- Establish a **permanent summer jobs program** for young people ages 14 through 24 that will provide youth, including economically disadvantaged and disconnected youth, with paid jobs that provide measurable world-of-work training and job skills development;
- Maintain our current workforce by ensuring **protections for immigrants**, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status; and
- Ensure access to **affordable, high-quality childcare and a portable benefits system** to ensure all those capable of engaging in the workforce are able.



IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS



ENSURING CLEAN AND SAFE WATER

NLC calls on Congress to update our nation's broadband infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Expand **broadband access** to underserved neighborhoods by eliminating state barriers to municipal broadband networks;
- Target federal money to community institutions, underserved communities, and low-income families by fixing funding shortfalls in the **Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Fund** and modernizing contribution methods;
- Increase funding for **Community Development Block grants and Choice Neighborhoods grants**, and expand the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **ConnectHome program** so that local governments can allocate funding for broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and neighborhood improvement projects;
- Protect **local authority over broadband infrastructure and local rights-of-way from preemptive regulatory action** by the Federal Communications Commission;
- Increase the financial viability of middle- and last-mile broadband infrastructure investment with **dig once policies** for inclusion of conduit or fiber placement in federally-funded infrastructure projects; and
- Dedicate more federal funding and oversight to **broadband mapping**, to ensure that federal agencies and local governments have a complete, accurate, street-level understanding of broadband access, adoption, and affordability.

NLC calls on Congress to improve our nation's water infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Reauthorize and provide federal funding for water infrastructure improvements through the **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)** programs;
- Provide full appropriation to the **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)** for loans and loan guarantees for water infrastructure projects;
- Modernize the **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting process** to allow states with delegated authority to issue permits of up to ten years;
- Provide federal funding for **grant and technical assistance programs** to improve the resilience and sustainability of drinking water systems, assist with lead testing and remediation, and address sewer overflows; and
- Require full use of the **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund** for its original intent, ensuring that our nation's ports and harbors do not continue to fall into disrepair.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

NLC calls on Congress to develop a coordinated federal plan that supports community resilience by passing legislation that will:

- Provide local governments with tools and information to mitigate risk and improve local infrastructure to better **withstand extreme weather** in the short- and long-term;
- Streamline **federal assistance programs**, such as CDBG Disaster Recovery grants, to ensure local governments can access and effectively use the resources they need for long-term recovery;
- Provide financial and technical assistance for local **government vulnerability assessments** and pre-disaster and hazard mitigation efforts;
- Provide local governments with incentives to consider the **effects of climate change and extreme weather** in their mitigation, adaptation, and resilience planning;
- Better **align federal funding with local preparedness and resilience-building efforts** to reduce the risks to the federal government from extreme weather;
- Dedicate a **mandatory funding source for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program**, which helps cities create and maintain local parks and outdoor recreation areas, particularly in underserved communities; and
- Take urgent action to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change**, including developing a multi-pollutant strategy to reduce emissions across a broad sector of the economy and incentivizing energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy development and deployment.



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

NLC calls on Congress to invest in cities' vision to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Protect the tax exemption on **municipal bonds** and **qualified private activity bonds**, which finance two-thirds of U.S. infrastructure projects;
- Reinstate the tax exemption for **advance refunding bonds** to provide cities with the flexibility to lower borrowing costs and free up capital for new infrastructure;
- Exempt current and future **direct subsidy bond payments and tax credits**, such as Build America Bonds, from sequestration to give city leaders the confidence to better plan and budget for long-term infrastructure needs;
- Remove the federal volume cap for qualified **private activity bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects**, which will make additional private capital available for water projects;
- Raise the threshold for **qualified small issuers** to \$30 million per year to lower borrowing costs for small cities, towns and villages;
- Replenish the **Trust Fund for transportation** and implement a **sustainable revenue strategy** that keeps the Trust Fund **fully funded** for rebuilding and maintaining roads, bridges and transit options;
- Create greater **flexibility for private investment** in infrastructure, while also recognizing that public-private partnerships may only be viable for a limited number of infrastructure projects; and
- Clarify that **water conservation and water efficiency rebates** provided by local water utilities to homeowners are not subject to a federal income tax.