



# Transportation and Infrastructure



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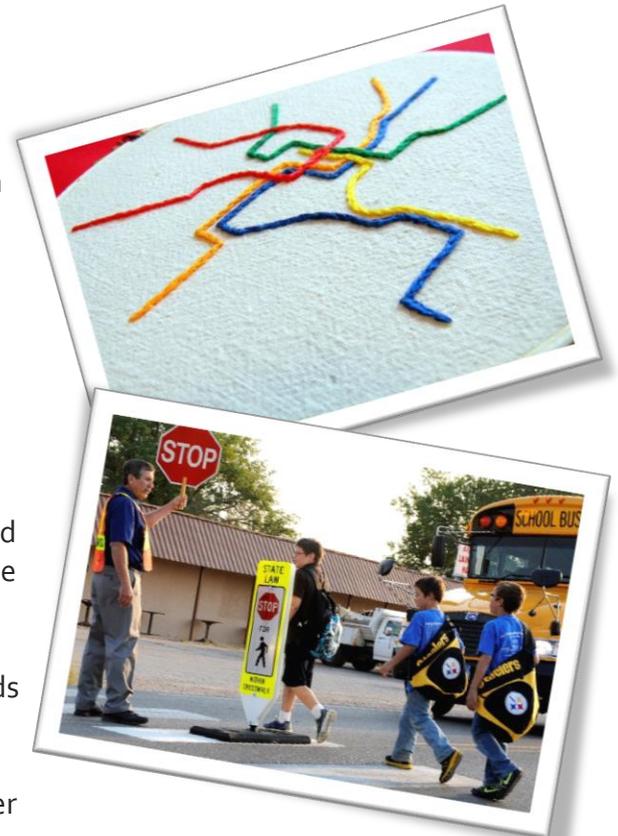
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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## What Regions Need in an Infrastructure Package

Infrastructure is a crucial part of the nation's economic backbone, making it essential for the well-being of all Americans. Increased investment in infrastructure provides access to greater economic opportunities and helps ensure the health and welfare of citizens. Investing in transportation infrastructure supports freight movement, access to jobs and other opportunities, and overall economic prosperity, while increasing the safety and reliability of the entire transportation system.

Cities and counties provide a significant share of the funding that supports the nation's transportation system, but federal investment remains an important and invaluable contribution. Regional planning organizations support the development and deployment of projects at the local level based on their broad understanding of regional conditions and needs and their capacity to bring local elected officials and community partners together to ensure funds are spent on the highest priority projects.



President Trump and congressional leaders have indicated a desire for infrastructure investment legislation. To support on-going local projects and programs as effectively as possible, any infrastructure package should:

- ✓ Resolve the Highway Trust Fund’s funding shortfall to ensure adequate financial resources are available to support, at a minimum, existing funding levels beyond expiration of the current FAST Act authorization.
- ✓ Increase direct funding to expand and maintain the nation’s infrastructure; and provide incentives to attract private financing for the subset of projects that can be supported in this manner.
- ✓ Provide a portion of new funding directly to local areas via their regional planning organizations through existing channels of distribution such as the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP).



- ✓ Support multimodal investments and ensure new funding provides flexibility in the types of projects it supports; explicitly recognize that transit, rail, bike and pedestrian, and other similar projects are federal priorities. Increased funding through existing channels for TIGER, STBGP, New Starts, FASTLANE, and Transportation Alternatives will support multimodal investments.

- ✓ Streamline the project review and approval process to the extent possible, without sacrificing the fundamental principles that underlie current federal requirements.

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