



## TRANSPORTATION

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## NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

### Business Nexus

The ability for the President and members of Congress to pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill will provide long-term investments to Sacramento that will support businesses and communities across the region. These investments will cover a broad range of infrastructure projects and transportation sectors including roads, bridges, public transit, intercity rail, port and aviation networks. These investments will be a catalyst for business development, assist in recruiting and retaining key employees, and improving quality of life in the six-county Sacramento region.

### Requested Action

The Congress and President Biden should work together in a bipartisan effort to create a national Infrastructure Package that includes:

- Direct federal investment in a broad range of infrastructure sectors.
- Increased funding to maintain our nation's system of road, bridge, public transit, human service transportation, intercity passenger rail, port, and aviation networks to protect past investments and advance future transportation innovations to address the demand for safe, efficient transportation and passenger rail.
- Removal of the cap on the Airport Passenger Facility charge to provide flexibility to airports to fund needed infrastructure.
- Flexible funding to support transit investments in our community, including state of good repair, capacity-building and pilot projects that highlight innovation in mobility.
- Safety increases, especially on rural roads which have a fatality rate 2.5 times higher per mile traveled than on urban highways.
- New investments in broadband and high-speed network communications to power cutting edge industries of the future.
- Investments in green fuel initiatives, including electrification, to modernize America's

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fleets, reduce our dependence on oil, and improve air quality.

## **Brief Background**

There is an overwhelming need for a large-scale federal infrastructure package to help fund regionally significant projects across the country. For example, the first round of the FASTLANE grant program in 2016, received 212 applications totaling nearly \$10 billion in requests, more than 13 times what was available.

The American Society of Civil Engineer's Infrastructure Report Card graded the nation's roads a "D," bridges a "C+," transit a "D-," and aviation infrastructure a "D." As the nation's infrastructure continues to age, the cost to repair and modernize our transportation system will continue to increase.

Any infrastructure package should complement and strengthen existing financing tools to encourage participation among all levels of government without shifting federal responsibilities to one single partner and include direct federal funding.

Passing a comprehensive package that transforms U.S. infrastructure systems beyond the status quo is necessary to maintain U.S. economic competitiveness. The United States is on track to invest less than half of what is needed in surface transportation infrastructure over the next decade (a \$1.1 trillion deficit) and \$42 billion less than what is needed in aviation infrastructure.

Increased transportation investment can lead to significant economic growth. For example, every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$4 in economic returns and every \$1 billion invested in public transportation supports and creates more than 50,000 jobs.

Innovation in our region is evident through Sacramento Regional Transit's (SacRT) on-demand microtransit service, SmaRT Ride, and by implementation of electric mobility technologies. SmaRT Ride is an app-based, on-demand, curb-to-curb mobility solution. The pioneering service brings newfound convenience to the riding public and serves communities where a fixed-route does not perform well. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has recently developed a Next Generation Transit Plan to prioritize and incentivize innovation and forward-thinking transportation concepts. Noting that travel patterns have changed, employment sectors have emerged, and regional growth has occurred over the last couple of decades, it was imperative to realign our region's bus routes to better serve the community and provided best in class public transit.

Furthermore, the Sacramento region has been designated as a Green City by Volkswagen's

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subsidiary, Electrify America, promising to invest \$44 million in electrification efforts. These funds build upon the region’s successful bike share launch, where a recent study found that Sacramento JUMP bikes experienced more passenger trips daily than its parent rideshare company Uber.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/565958-poll-shows-broad-support-for-bipartisan-infrastructure-bill>