

October 7, 2021



**We're Building A
Better America!**

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair) ■ Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair) ■ American Coal Ash Association ■ American Concrete Pavement Association ■ American Concrete Pipe Association ■ American Council of Engineering Companies ■ American Subcontractors Association ■ American Iron and Steel Institute ■ American Society of Civil Engineers ■ American Traffic Safety Services Association ■ Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■ Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association ■ Associated Equipment Distributors ■ Association of Equipment Manufacturers ■ Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute ■ International Slurry Surfacing Association ■ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■ International Union of Operating Engineers ■ Institute of Makers of Explosives ■ Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■ Laborers' International Union of North America ■ National Asphalt Pavement Association ■ National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■ National Electrical Contractors Association ■ National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■ National Steel Bridge Alliance ■ National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■ National Utility Contractors Association ■ Portland Cement Association ■ Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■ Surety and Fidelity Association of America ■ The Road Information Program ■ United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader McCarthy:

The 33 national associations and labor unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition are writing to respond to a recent misleading fact sheet circulated by House Republican Leadership on the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

We disagree with the assertion that this bill is nothing more than a “Trojan Horse” to pass another measure. This legislation, on its own, would increase every state’s highway formula funding by an average of 35 percent. These significant investments will immediately begin to create new, well-paying careers and improve our nation’s roads and bridges, which will increase productivity and economic competitiveness for decades to come.

The “fact sheet” fails to recognize this investment will also have demonstrative benefits for the economy at large and for all Americans. Specifically, a study of the increased investment in highway and public transportation programs will increase the nation’s GDP by \$488 billion and average disposable income by \$500 per household per year.¹ As our economy continues to recover from the pandemic, this investment has never been more urgent.

In one of the most dubious claims, this document states that the bill “includes no reforms to the National Environmental Protection Act process...” In fact, this legislation goes further to positively address the project approval process than any legislation in recent history, as it codifies President Trump’s ‘One Federal Decision’ Executive Order. This specific provision was advanced and supported by every member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure GOP caucus during the mark-up of surface transportation reauthorization legislation earlier this year. While that effort failed, fortunately, it was included in this bipartisan legislation that the Senate produced and is currently being debated in the House.

These reasons and more are why 19 Senate Republicans, including Leader McConnell, voted for this legislation. House Republicans are certainly entitled to vote their conscience and or argue the nation does not need increased infrastructure investment. However, we are not prepared to sit by and allow misrepresentations of the benefits we know will result from the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. Our disagreements aside, we will continue working with all members of the House to advance legislation to rebuild the nation’s infrastructure and create well-paying careers in every part of the country.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition

Cc: House Republicans

For More Information:
202/289-4434 (ARTBA)
703/548-3118 (AGC)

¹ <https://www.artba.org/economics/iija-impact/>