Communicating the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

(as seen on apta.com’s homepage since passage)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) made historic investments in our nation’s public transportation infrastructure that will shape our future for decades to come. APTA has spent the past 11 months communicating why these bold investments in public transportation will help our communities and nation tackle climate change, advance equity, meet growing and evolving mobility demands, and create jobs.

Executive/Leadership Communications

APTA Holds Annual Meeting & EXPO Just Hours After Congressional Approval of IIJA

APTA has done more to publicize, applaud, and explain the elements of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act than any other industry-specific trade group. APTA was among the very first – if not THE first – industry association to publicly promote the IIJA to a large in-person audience: The bipartisan measure was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives late on Saturday, November 5 (following Senate approval in August), just a little more than one day before the opening of APTA’s 2021 Annual Meeting and EXPO in Orlando, Florida. At 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 7, APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas announced the news to 8,000 transportation professionals and business executives. The timing was fortuitous because our EXPO, the largest public transportation trade show in North America, is held only once every three years. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg also addressed the attendees by video, and during the subsequent days, APTA members discussed the details of the IIJA and what it would mean for their public transportation agencies, transit-related businesses, and communities.

APTA Conferences and Events

Following the Annual Meeting & EXPO in November 2021, APTA leaders and invited guest speakers (including U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. DOT Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg, FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez, and FRA Administrator Amit Bose) have publicized the benefits of the IIJA in speeches and special educational sessions at APTA conferences and meetings. To date, almost 15,000 APTA members, allies, and partners at more than 14 in-person events in 14 different U.S. cities and at three virtual conferences have received detailed information about the IIJA and how to access funding. When APTA convenes its 2022 TRANSform Conference in Seattle, WA in October, a major portion of the program will be devoted to topics surrounding the implementation of the IIJA.

Non-APTAs Events

In addition to the APTA-sponsored events listed above, the association’s President and CEO, Chair, Vice Chair, and APTA senior staff have promoted the IIJA in speeches and presentations at non-APTAs conferences since it was signed into law. Thanks to APTA’s efforts, thousands of elected officials, business and labor leaders, state transportation associations, and community groups have learned about the new law and its benefits at 17 regional, state, local, and even international venues, nearly all of which were in-person.
Legislative Alerts/Updates

APTA has sent eight in-depth legislative alerts and updates regarding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [IIJA] and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies [THUD] Appropriations bill since the enactment of the IIJA last November.

APTA’s Smart Guide to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

To help our members, APTA has created a Smart Guide on the Implementation of the IIJA with more than 150 documents. This guide provides information and resources to aid members in navigating the many aspects of this new law. It includes APTA’s summaries, funding and formula apportionment tables, and detailed section-by-section analyses of the public transit, passenger rail, Buy America, and other important titles of the IIJA. It also includes U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) formula apportionments, guidance, memoranda, regulations, and competitive grant opportunities. We continuously update the Smart Guide as more information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and DOT grant opportunities becomes available.

Passenger Transport

Passenger Transport, APTA’s flagship publication, has published 18 feature articles regarding the IIJA and THUD Appropriations bill since the enactment of the IIJA last November.

Social Media

Across all major social platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram), APTA has kept a steady drumbeat of IIJA information and communications flowing. All told, 331 social posts promoting the IIJA and APTA member activities have been posted to APTA social channels (Facebook/Instagram - 122; Twitter - 159; LinkedIn – 50).

Press Releases/Statements

APTA’s media outreach strives to elevate the industry and the association’s profile through cohesive and consistent messaging regarding the importance of investment in infrastructure. As the voice and leader for the industry, we have crafted seven press releases or statements regarding IIJA passage, investment, and THUD Appropriations.

APTA 2022 Congressional Fly-In

In June 2022, as part of a day of Congressional advocacy, APTA members encouraged Congress to ensure that public transportation and passenger rail funds are available to build our infrastructure of the future. APTA members participated in nearly 130 meetings with Congressional offices, including meeting directly with several key Members of Congress: Senators Mike Braun (R-IN), and Tim Scott (R-SC), and Representatives Mike Carey (R-OH), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Chris Jacobs (R-NY), Marianne Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Donald Payne (D-NJ) and Eric Swalwell (D-CA).