

## **PRESIDENT TRUMP'S LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMERICA**

President Trump is a builder. Throughout his career, he made his name constructing big things. He applies that builder's mindset to all aspects of the presidency, but especially to his bold vision for rebuilding infrastructure in America.

President Trump's legislative plan is based on six principles:

1. **Stimulate infrastructure investment**: Invest \$200 billion in Federal funds to spur at least \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure investments with partners at the State, local, Tribal, and private level.
2. **Invest in rural America**: Invest \$50 billion in Federal funds to rebuild and modernize infrastructure in rural America.
3. **Increase State and local authority**: Empower State and local authorities to make investment and permitting decisions.
4. **Eliminate regulatory barriers**: Provide needed flexibility for projects to be developed and managed effectively and efficiently.
5. **Streamline permitting**: Shorten the permitting process to two years, or less.
6. **Empower American workers**: Reform Federal education and workforce development programs to better prepare Americans to perform the in-demand jobs of today and the future.

The President is committed to working with Congress to reach consensus to ensure more timely and efficient infrastructure investment that will strengthen the American economy, make our country more competitive, create jobs and increase wages for workers, and reduce the costs of goods and services for American families.

### **THE INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE**

#### **Highlights of President Trump's Legislative Outline for Funding and Financing**

The President is asking Congress to approve legislation that leverages \$200 billion to stimulate at least \$1.5 trillion in new investment in infrastructure. The Federal Government historically has played, and should continue to play, an important role in developing infrastructure in our Nation. However, the vast bulk of infrastructure spending in the United States is non-Federal, and as such, the Administration has developed a long-term solution to our Nation's infrastructure problems that rests on strong Federal, State, and local partnerships. Providing more Federal funding, on its own, is not the solution to our infrastructure challenges, as history has shown that when taxpayer dollars are sent to Washington, D.C., they are often inefficiently invested. The Administration proposes offering these additional Federal funds in a manner that will stretch the use and benefit of taxpayer dollars.

- ❖ **Incentives Program:** Under the President's proposal, 50 percent of the Federal commitment will be dedicated toward an Incentives Program to encourage increased State, local, and private investment by awarding project sponsors incentives for demonstrating innovative approaches that will generate independent revenue, reduce project costs and timelines, and improve performance. The Incentives Program will target a wide-ranging group of traditional government-owned asset classes, including surface transportation and airports, passenger rail, maritime and inland waterway ports, waterways, flood risk management, water supply, hydropower, water resources, drinking water facilities, wastewater facilities, stormwater facilities, and Brownfield and Superfund sites. Project sponsors will apply for incentives, and applications will be evaluated on objective criteria with new revenue being the largest driver for award. Project sponsors selected for award will execute an agreement committing to meet agreed progress milestones, and incentive funds will be conditioned upon achieving the milestones within identified timeframes.
- ❖ **Rural Infrastructure Program:** The President proposes to dedicate 25 percent of the Federal dollars to enable rural America to address its unique infrastructure challenges, rebuilding and modernizing bridges, roads, water and wastewater assets, water resources, waterways, power generation assets, and broadband. The bulk of these funds under the President's plan will be made available to Governors via formula to choose the investments that respond to the unique rural needs of their respective States. States will apply for the remaining funds, which will be distributed as rural performance grants based on performance criteria, including increased investment in broadband. This program also will provide a needed boost to tribal and territorial infrastructure.
- ❖ **Transformative Projects Program:** The President's plan includes a focus on transformative projects that can reimagine traditional approaches to infrastructure and unlock GDP growth. The plan dedicates 10 percent of the overall amount to spur competition around bold, innovative, and truly transformative projects that could dramatically improve future infrastructure, become self-sustaining without Federal support, and have a significant impact on the Nation, a region, State or metropolitan area. Funding will be available under three options (demonstration, project planning, capital construction) designed to support three distinct project lifecycle phases. Project sponsors also may seek technical assistance to navigate Federal regulatory, policy, and administrative processes, or to develop safety and other regulatory frameworks to execute a project. Each awardee under this program will enter into a partnership agreement with the Federal Government that specifies performance milestones.

- ❖ **Financing Programs:** The legislative plan will offer 10 percent of the overall funds for expansion of existing financing programs to address a broader range of infrastructure needs, giving State and local governments increased opportunity to finance large-scale infrastructure projects under terms that are more advantageous than in the financial market. This includes extending Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) eligibility to airport projects and non-Federal maritime and inland waterway ports. It also recommends providing subsidy funding for Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loans to short-line freight and passenger rail projects and expanding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program to flood mitigation, navigation, and water supply. The plan would provide additional amounts for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to facilitate further investment in rural infrastructure. The plan also will create flexibility and broaden eligibility to facilitate use of private activity bonds for eligible public infrastructure projects.
- ❖ **Federal Capital Revolving Fund:** The Federal Government is currently utilizing inefficient leases to access real property that it should own. One reason for this is that, given fiscal constraints, limited funding is not allocated for the upfront capital needed to acquire real property projects. The legislative plan would remedy these inefficiencies by providing 5 percent of the overall funds to establish a mandatory revolving fund to finance purchases, construction or renovation of federally owned domestic civilian real property. Purchasing agencies would then be required to repay the fund using discretionary appropriations.
- ❖ **Public Lands & Federal Assets:** The President's plan will make additional statutory changes that will restore the benefits of public lands and federally owned assets to the American people. It will enable revenues generated from public lands to pay for capital and maintenance needs of infrastructure on public lands. It also will allow for the sale or lease of federally owned assets to optimize their value and to reinvest revenues back into infrastructure.

### **Highlights of President Trump's Legislative Outline for Infrastructure Improvements**

The President also is seeking statutory changes that are crucial to eliminating barriers to efficient and effective management and delivery of infrastructure projects across multiple asset classes.

- ❖ **Transportation:** President Trump's legislative plan encourages alternative project delivery in transportation, including State, local and private investment, and removes barriers and unnecessary Federal oversight in the development and improvement of transportation infrastructure to facilitate timely project delivery.

- ❖ **Water:** The plan incentivizes the development of effective infrastructure asset management standards, outcome-based procurement, and life-cycle risk management and valuation to improve water infrastructure; proposes new approaches for investment in the Inland Waterways System, including greater investment from non-Federal sources; and removes barriers to implementation for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.
- ❖ **Veterans' Affairs (VA) Facilities:** The VA owns aging physical assets with high-value underlying property value. The President's plan provides the VA flexibility to use the value of its properties to improve and provide our Nation's veterans with the state-of-the-art facilities they deserve. Reforms include expanding the VA's authority to lease its vacant assets for commercial or mixed-use purposes and to speed its ability to pursue needed facility renovations and improvements.
- ❖ **Land Revitalization:** The plan expands funding eligibility for Superfund and Brownfield revitalization projects and establishes tools to manage and address legal and financial risks.

#### **Highlights of President Trump's Legislative Outline for Permitting Improvement**

The current sea of Federal red tape for environmental reviews and permitting unnecessarily hampers the delivery of major infrastructure projects, and the President is offering concrete solutions to make project delivery timeframes shorter and more reliable while continuing to protect the environment.

- ❖ **Streamlining the Federal Role:** The President seeks to restructure Federal environmental review and permitting for major infrastructure projects by having one agency make one decision to reduce the permitting process to 2 years, amending existing statutory provisions to eliminate redundancies and inefficiencies in environmental laws, and focusing on environmental outcomes rather than processes.
- ❖ **Delegating to States:** The plan includes reforms to broaden existing authorities to delegate environmental review and permitting responsibilities to States and to facilitate reliance on State and local reviews and documentation.
- ❖ **Piloting New Approaches:** Two new pilot programs will be created under the President's plan to experiment with different ways to conduct Federal environmental reviews using performance measures and negotiated mitigation.

#### **Highlights of President Trump's Legislative Outline for Workforce Development**

This Administration is committed to helping more individuals access affordable, relevant, quality education and skills-development that leads to full-time work and long-term careers. Enactment of an infrastructure bill will generate new projects that directly increase employment in the construction industry, and that will boost the demand for labor more broadly as additional infrastructure investment spurs economic growth. President Trump's plan will help Americans secure stable, well-paying jobs and ensure our country has enough skilled workers to perform not only existing jobs but also the new jobs created by the infrastructure initiative.

- ❖ **Expanding Pell Grant Eligibility:** The President's plan will expand Pell grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term programs to allow individuals to use Pell grants to pay for short-term programs that lead to a credential or certification in an in-demand field.
- ❖ **Reforming Licensing Requirements:** The President's plan seeks reforms to require that States accepting Federal funds for infrastructure projects accept workers with out-of-State licenses to work on those projects. This would speed project delivery, reduce project costs, and provide flexibility to workers with out-of-State skilled trade licenses.
- ❖ **Reforming Career and Technical Education (CTE):** The President is asking Congress to make reforms to the CTE program to ensure that more students in America's secondary and postsecondary institutions have access to high-quality technical education that teaches them practical knowledge and skills needed in today's technology-driven economy.
- ❖ **Strengthening Ties to the Workforce for College Students:** The President's plan will make Federal Work Study program (FWS) reforms to better distribute aid to schools and students who can most benefit. This will ensure that more participants obtain relevant workplace experience, including by participating in an apprenticeship.