

INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

Frequently Asked Questions

The INVEST in America Act is a \$715 billion surface transportation reauthorization and water infrastructure bill that will create good-paying jobs to rebuild and reimagine America's surface transportation infrastructure, with investments in roads, bridges, transit, rail, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. This package helps meet the president's vision—as laid out in the American Jobs Plan—by investing in American workers and communities of all sizes, while tackling the climate crisis head-on.

What specifically is included in the INVEST in America Act?

The INVEST in America Act includes a reauthorization of surface transportation programs and policies, which must be completed by September 30, 2021. The surface transportation reauthorization directs federal investments in our roads, highways, bridges, transit, and rail, and was written and advanced by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The INVEST in America Act also includes the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021*, a bipartisan wastewater infrastructure bill, and two bills from the Energy and Commerce Committee: the *Assistance, Quality, and Affordability (AQUA) Act of 2021* and the *Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021*. Together, the investments and policies in the INVEST in America Act are key to creating good-paying jobs rebuilding and modernizing America's infrastructure, improving communities of all sizes, and cutting carbon pollution.

What makes the INVEST in America Act transformative?

In most of the country, American families and businesses still rely on infrastructure from the Eisenhower era. The INVEST in America Act sets the stage to modernize our infrastructure and transportation systems and bring us out of the 1950s by replacing outdated systems, making record investments in transit and rail, and incorporating new technologies and materials. The surface transportation bill is also the first of its kind to meaningfully address climate change, which is incredibly important because the transportation sector is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. With this legislation, the U.S. can make a shift toward cleaner mobility options that provide Americans with the choices they want, the ability to safely get where they're going, and ensure every household has access to affordable, clean water.

How does this bill fit into President Biden's American Jobs Plan?

The INVEST in America Act, which proposes transformational investments in our roads, bridges, transit, rail, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, lays the groundwork for the president's bigger, broader infrastructure goals. The INVEST in America Act does not cover all aspects of the American Jobs Plan; it is focused on water infrastructure and surface transportation.

Does the Biden administration support the INVEST in America Act?

Not only does our committee share many of the same ambitious goals as the Biden administration—including record investments in transit and rail, building out a robust electric vehicle (EV) charging station network, cutting greenhouse gases from the transportation sector, reconnecting communities, and helping ensure clean, affordable water for all—the INVEST in America Act puts many of the broad goals outlined in the American Jobs Plan into legislative text.

How did the committees come up with the price tag for the INVEST in America Act?

We started with baseline needs, identifying what it will take to get us back to a state of good repair and make real progress to address the climate crisis. From there, we looked at what we believe the American people will support. There is broad, bipartisan consensus that we must invest in our infrastructure, which will create good-paying jobs—many of which will not require a college degree—and support American manufacturing, engineering, and ingenuity.

What kind of jobs will the INVEST in America Act create and sustain?

The INVEST in America Act will be carried out by American workers and American ingenuity, thanks to strong Buy America provisions and labor protections, including Davis-Bacon wages. By rebuilding our country with materials made in America, we can create millions of jobs that cannot be exported—not only in construction, but also in engineering and clean tech manufacturing. According to a recent [Georgetown University study](#), the long-term economic impact of infrastructure spending on the economy shows that, on average, every \$100 billion spent could potentially boost job growth by one million jobs. Most jobs do not require a college degree.

What kind of outreach went into writing the INVEST in America Act?

In developing this legislation over the past three years, the T&I Committee held more than 20 hearings, including two Members Day hearings with testimony from more than 100 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, and engaged with hundreds of advocates and transportation agencies through countless roundtables, meetings, and project visits around the country. The committee also marked up a similar version of the INVEST in America Act last year and considered hundreds of amendments during that process. The bill passed the House last year as part of the Moving Forward Act, but the Senate failed to consider the package. Similarly, the drinking water protections and investments were developed by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce over the past five years, during which time committee leaders met with local community leaders, stakeholders, and drinking water safety experts. The proposals were developed and refined over the course of numerous hearings and have earned widespread support among drinking water and frontline community advocates.

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. How does this plan reduce pollution?

The INVEST in America Act accounts for climate change in ways we've never done before. It takes massive steps to reduce carbon pollution in the transportation sector, makes record investments in public transit and intercity passenger rail, and expands safe cycling and walking infrastructure. It creates a new allocated program focused on carbon pollution reduction, funds new opportunities for low and zero-emission rail locomotive development, and mandates that Amtrak plan to achieve net-

zero carbon emissions along the Northeast Corridor by 2035. We are going to account for climate change in how we plan projects and build to a resilient standard that is made to last.

What about streamlining? Why does it take so long to carry out projects in the U.S.?

Far and away, the biggest obstacle to starting and carrying out projects in a timely matter is funding certainty. The INVEST in America Act is designed to deliver projects faster by providing the funding and flexibility states need.

The last two surface transportation bills enacted dozens of streamlining provisions that, once fully utilized by states and local governments carrying out projects, will help deliver projects quickly and efficiently.