BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW Resource Guide



The House Committee on **Transportation & Infrastructure** Ranking Member Rick Larsen

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I. Topline Messaging

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides transformational investment: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is revitalizing our nation's infrastructure, benefiting communities in every county of the country, and expanding the reach of federal transportation funds to more grant recipients than ever before.

Record support is reaching states, counties, and cities: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is quickly getting BIL funds dedicated for roads, bridges, transit systems, railroads, ports, and airports to states, local governments, transit agencies, planning organizations, airports, ports, and passenger and freight railroads.

- ✓ As of July 2024, DOT has announced \$318 billion in BIL funds to states, cities, counties, airports, ports, and transit agencies.
- ✓ BIL funds have supported **more than 60,000 projects** in communities across the country.
- ✓ The BIL provides unprecedented support to local and tribal governments through technical assistance so that communities new to accessing federal funds can share in the benefits.

BIL dollars are helping communities build cleaner, greener, safer and more accessible infrastructure: Congressional Democrats set clear priorities during BIL consideration for what infrastructure funds must deliver: address climate change and reduce carbon pollution, combat historic inequities in transportation investments, and improve roadway safety, especially for vulnerable road users. The administration is implementing the BIL to meet these goals. Projects completed with BIL funds—selected by state and local public entities, not the federal government—are bolstering the economy and quality of life in the communities they serve.

Transportation equals jobs: The BIL creates good jobs through its infrastructure investments, which have significant positive economic impacts. The BIL invests in the transportation workforce needed to upgrade our highway, bridge, transit, cycling and pedestrian, rail, port, airport, and water systems. More than 770,000 jobs per year are supported by the BIL. Employment in highway, street, and bridge construction is at its highest since data collection began. From 2011-2019, the industry added an average of 700 jobs per month, and in 2023, it added 2,800 jobs per month.

II. Tracking Impacts by State and Congressional District

The following resources can help with determining what the BIL is delivering in your state and Congressional District.

Invest.gov map and database

The White House produces an interactive <u>map</u> detailing BIL investments to date by state and sorted by private and public investment. This is very useful for summary level information. To access a fuller list of projects by district, see below.

USA Spending

The most comprehensive data set on projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law can be found at USA Spending. Below are guidelines for navigating the site to produce a list of investment in infrastructure in your district. While useful, this data set is not always up to date for all programs at the Congressional District level. Contact Committee staff if you need assistance.

- 1. Open <u>USAspending.gov</u>. Click "start searching awards"
- 2. In "Filters" select the following items:
 - Select location: select United States, then your state, and then your Congressional District
 - Select FY 2022, 2023, and 2024 to pick all the FYs since the enactment of the BIL
 - Select award types: Contracts, Contract IDVs, Grants, Direct Payments, Loans
 - Select Awarding Agency:
 - ✓ For Transportation: DOT, Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST); FHWA; FTA; FMCSA; NHTSA; FAA; FRA; PHMSA; and MARAD
 - ✓ For Water: EPA.
- 3. Under "Disaster Emergency Fund Code (DEFC)" scroll down and select "infrastructure spending" to pick up both non-emergency and emergency budget categories.
- 4. Click "Submit Search." The download may take a few minutes and will result in downloading a Zip file. The relevant excel file will be titled "Assistance_PrimeAwardSummaries".

State-by-State Fact Sheets

<u>State-by-state fact sheets</u> produced by the White House (updated June 2024) provide highlights of announced BIL funding and projects in each state, along with total funding available by category.

ARTBA Transportation Dashboard

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has <u>a highway dashboard</u> updated regularly that shows BIL highway and bridge dollars at work, and tracks highway and bridge formula and competitive funds. From the map, select your state to identify specific projects, and from there you can further drill down by Congressional District. The landing page for all ARTBA transportation resources is <u>here</u>.

National League of Cities Dashboard

The National League of Cities also maintains a Rebuilding America <u>dashboard</u> which shows select cities, towns and villages that have successfully received BIL grants.

III. Engagement Tools

Highlight transportation assets and needs in your District

- ✓ ARTBA's <u>Transportation Information at-a-Glance</u> provides information by state and by Congressional District including: an infrastructure asset inventory; safety, mobility, and goods movement data; the economic impacts of transportation; and other related information.
- ✓ ARTBA's regularly updated <u>Bridge Report</u> organizes detailed data from the National Bridge Inventory in a user-friendly format, highlighting deficient bridges and those in poor condition in each state and Congressional District.

Showcase the importance of these assets and funding needs

- Meet with transportation officials and potential BIL project sponsors and grant applicants. This is a great way to learn about critical needs and planned future projects in your district. <u>Transportation</u> <u>Contacts Near You</u> is a starting point to help identify:
 - U.S. DOT regional offices in your area,
 - Contacts in your state DOT,
 - Regional metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) in your state and area,
 - Local transit agencies in your state or district (compiled by the American Public Transportation Association).
- Meet with mayors, city council members, county executives and state legislators to hear what the transportation and infrastructure priorities are for your district—and how these priorities may differ depending on the level of government.
- Plan site visits and tours at projects or facilities during district work periods and invite local transportation leaders or elected officials to join.

Support project grant awards

- Congress receives at least 3-day advance notification of competitive grant award decisions prior to public announcement by DOT. DOT notifies affected Congressional offices directly via an automated email system and the Committee contacts affected offices upon receipt of grant announcements. Press outreach and social media are great ways to amplify these grant awards and let your constituents know about the impact of federal funds in their communities.
- Members can also provide crucial support for projects in need of funding. Highlighting assets and facilities in need of improvement is a good first step. Congressional offices can help connect local communities with technical assistance resources at DOT or with Committee staff. Once a project sponsor decides to pursue a grant, letters of support for the project and other outreach from the Member office to the relevant federal agency can also elevate the profile of the project.

IV. Additional Resources

What's available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

- ✓ Funding
 - The DOT <u>funding dashboard</u> provides the best one-stop shop showing details of the \$661 billion in transportation funding under the BIL. Organized by mode, the interactive dashboard provides an overview of programs and annual funding available.
 - Detailed BIL landing pages for each of the DOT modal administrations are also available:
 - <u>\$365 billion for highway programs</u>—Federal Highway Administration (FHWA);
 - <u>\$108 billion for transit programs</u>—Federal Transit Administration (FTA);
 - <u>\$102 billion for rail programs</u>—Federal Railroad Administration (FRA);
 - •\$43 billion for multimodal, innovation, and competitive grant programs—Office of the Secretary (OST);
 - <u>\$25 billion for aviation programs</u>—Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
 - •<u>\$8 billion for safety programs</u>—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA);
 - •<u>\$5 billion for motor carrier safety programs</u>—Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA);
 - <u>\$2.3 billion for port and waterway programs</u>—Maritime Administration (MARAD);

•<u>\$1 billion for modernization of natural gas distribution pipelines</u>—Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

 The <u>EPA landing page</u> for the BIL provides overview information for EPA programs under the law, including clean water, pollution clean up and prevention, and clean school buses. More details on water infrastructure funding can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. More information on grant funding to help remediate community brownfields can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

- ✓ Grant Opportunities
 - A list of all DOT BIL grant opportunities can be found <u>here</u>.
 - The <u>Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</u> details each of the more than 375 programs under the BIL and gives communities an overview of funding opportunities by category of projects (e.g., surface transportation safety).
 - DOT publishes anticipated dates for BIL <u>upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity for</u> <u>competitive grants</u>.
- ✓ Guides & Playbooks
 - The <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tribal Playbook</u> details the \$13 billion available in funding to directly support Tribal communities, including how and when to apply for funds.
 - The <u>Rural Playbook</u> is designed to help rural communities navigate and access BIL funding, including specific set-asides for rural areas.
 - <u>Advancing Equitable Workforce Development for Infrastructure Jobs</u> details the more than \$800 million in dedicated BIL funding for workforce development as well as other federal funding sources available to support workforce initiatives.

How can my community get more assistance?

- ✓ <u>USDOT Navigator</u> is a one-stop shop for technical assistance resources that are available through DOT to "help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services." This site provides resources for grant applicants seeking to secure BIL and other DOT discretionary grant funding. Topics include:
 - o <u>USDOT Discretionary Grant Process</u>: What's the process to apply for federal grants?
 - How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications
 - o Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants
 - Maximizing Award Success: tips on how to writing a grant application to <u>maximize</u> <u>chances of securing a grant</u> and understand <u>how DOT uses evaluation criteria</u> to select applications.
 - <u>Non-Federal Match Requirements</u>: Understanding whether and at what level local funds are required for projects that receive DOT funding.
 - <u>Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status</u>: How to determine whether a community meets "disadvantaged community status" for certain DOT grants.
 - <u>Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization</u>: Provides a list of considerations prior to applying, and potential partnership opportunities with eligible entities if an organization can't access federal funds on its own.
- ✓ The BIL <u>Technical Assistance Guide</u> by the White House details how communities can apply for more than \$700 million in direct technical assistance funds (money designed to help these communities build capacity to carry out infrastructure projects). The guide is organized by topic area (transportation, broadband, water, energy etc.) with links to specific grants.

- The Federal Highway Administration, which carries out \$365 billion in total funding under BIL, has its own <u>support page</u> to provide technical assistance to local agencies for planning, design, preservation and construction of public roads and in the stewardship of federal funds.
- The Federal Railroad Administration, which for the first time in history has grant funding certainty for five years under the BIL, has on its <u>landing page</u> updates on its corridor development planning and capital grant funding opportunities.