



# Policy Update

August 12, 2021

**US Senate Passes Infrastructure Bill** - On August 10, the US Senate passed HR 3648, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which stemmed from the bipartisan infrastructure framework agreement between the President and a bipartisan group of Senators. The final vote was 69 ayes to 30 nays. The bill provides \$383 billion in contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund for the 5-year surface transportation bill plus an additional \$184 billion in advance appropriations for transportation programs to be released in five equal installments on October 1 of each year for the next five years - \$567 billion in guaranteed funding over five years. With Senate passage the bill will now be sent to the US House of Representatives.

## Key Programs Compared to FAST Act Authorizations over 5 years.

	FAST Act	IIJA	Over FAST
Highways (HTF)	\$225.0B	\$318.6B	+41%
FTA Transit Formula (HTF)	\$49.0B	\$70.0B	+43%
FTA Transit CIG (GF Authorized)	\$11.5B	\$15.0B	+30%

## Direct Appropriations and HTF - Guaranteed funding (selected programs)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FHWA HTF	\$47.104B	\$58.212B	\$59.503B	\$60.835B	\$62.053B	\$63.396B
FHWA Bridge Formula (GF Advanced Appropriations)		\$5.5B	\$5.5B	\$5.5B	\$5.5B	\$5.5B
Bridge Investment Program – Discretionary grants HTF		\$600M	\$640M	\$650M	\$675M	\$700M
Bridge Investment Program – Discretionary Grants (GF Advanced Appropriations)		1.847B	1.847B	1.847B	1.847B	1.847B
FHWA INFRA (GF Advanced Appropriations)		\$640M	\$640M	\$640M	\$640M	\$640M
FTA Formula HTF	\$10.150B	\$13.355B	\$13.634B	\$13.990B	\$14.279B	\$14.642B
FTA Capital Investment Grants (GF Advanced Appropriations)		\$1.6B	\$1.6B	\$1.6B	\$1.6B	\$1.6B
FTA Transit Infrastructure Grants		\$2.050B	\$2.050B	\$2.050B	\$2.050B	\$2.050B
Amtrak NEC (GF Advanced Appropriations)		\$1.2B	\$1.2B	\$1.2B	\$1.2B	\$1.2B

Amtrak NN (GF Advanced Appropriations)		\$3.2B	\$3.2B	\$3.2B	\$3.2B	\$3.2B
Federal-State Partnership for Interstate Passenger Rail Grants (GF Advanced)		\$7.2B	\$7.2B	\$7.2B	\$7.2B	\$7.2B
CRISI Grants (GF Advanced)		\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B
National Infrastructure Project Assistance (GF Advanced)		\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B
Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (GF Advanced)		\$1.5B	\$1.5B	\$1.5B	\$1.5B	\$1.5B
FAA F&E (GF Advanced)		\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B
FAA Airport Infrastructure Grants – Formula (GF Advanced)		\$3.0B	\$3.0B	\$3.0B	\$3.0B	\$3.0B
FAA Airport Terminal Program – Discretionary Grants (GF Advanced)		\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B	\$1.0B
Reconnect Communities Pilot (GF Advanced)		\$100M	\$100M	\$100M	\$100M	\$100M
Port Infrastructure (GF Advanced)		\$450M	\$450M	\$450M	\$450M	\$450M

**US Senate passes \$3.5 Trillion Budget Plan 50-49** – Following the passage of the infrastructure bill, the Senate immediately moved to debating and passing a \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint that would address the President’s American Families Plan which includes social initiatives and climate change. Passage of the resolution unlocks the reconciliation process which only requires 51 votes in the Senate to pass. The resolution contains instructions to committees to report changes in the law that increase the deficit by a specific amount (provide additional spending). The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee received instructions allowing increases to the deficit by \$83.076 billion, House T&I \$60 billion, Senate EPW \$67 billion, and Senate Banking \$332 billion.

These allocations permit the Committees to direct spending to programs within their jurisdiction. Based on earlier “agreements” between the Senators and the President there will be no additional spending on “hard” infrastructure like roads, bridges, and transit.

**House Majority Leader Announces Early Return to DC for House Members** – Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) sent a letter to all House Members announcing that “*the House will return to session on the evening of August 23 to consider that budget resolution and will remain in session until our business for the week is concluded.*” The House was scheduled to be on recess until September 20. The week of August 23 will be the first opportunity for the House to vote on the Senate-passed infrastructure bill. The Speaker has stated that the House would not move on infrastructure until the Senate passes a budget plan. Now that the Senate has passed both bills it will be up to the Democratic leaders in the House to secure the necessary 281 votes to send the bill to the President.