

## **Infrastructure Bill Passes House to Be Signed by President Biden!**

The United States House of Representatives passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act late Friday night on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The bipartisan infrastructure package will invest \$550 Billion dollars into U.S. infrastructure over the next five years. It is the largest infrastructure package in a generation and will add 2 million jobs per year over the lifespan of the five-year funding.

As Teamsters we have a lot to gain from this investment in our infrastructure. Smoother roads, rebuilt ports, and the creation of more jobs with living wages are our paramount priorities for our brothers and sisters.

How the funding works: The \$550 Billion dollars will be dispersed into existing programs that are available for federal grants to be awarded to every state. As money is transferred from the federal government to these grant programs, Alaska will create proposals for the state's infrastructure priorities. Those proposals are reviewed by the program administrators who will grant, adjust, or deny the proposals. Once the proposal is granted, money will start to flow.

Below is a funding list provided from Senator Murkowski's office upon request from Teamsters Local 959.

### **Roads/Bridges:**

- Authorizes \$273 billion in Federal-aid highway formula funding that will provide roughly \$3.5 billion in highway funding for Alaska over five years to construct, rebuild, and maintain its roads and highways.
- Provides \$40 billion in funding for bridge construction, maintenance, and repair. Of that, \$27.5 billion will be apportioned by formula to ensure every state's bridges are provided with needed resources, and Alaska should receive \$225 million to address more than 140 bridges considered to be "structurally deficient".
- This includes \$1 billion for the replacement of culverts, like the Schoenbar Creek culvert in Ketchikan.
- There is an additional \$11 billion for highway and pedestrian safety programs, including significant investment in the Safe Streets Program, which aims to prevent death and serious injury to cyclists on roads and streets.
- Of almost \$65 billion in total funding for Federal Transit Administration, Alaska is expected to receive \$362 million over five years for a mix of transit formula grants.
- Authorizes funding for reconstruction of the Shakwak Highway, the Alaska Highway from the Alaska border at Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory, to Haines Junction in Canada and the Haines Cutoff Highway from Haines Junction in Canada to Haines, Alaska, in support of the U.S.'s agreement with Canada.

- Aligns the Department of the Interior’s process for expediting NEPA reviews for tribal transportation safety projects.
- Creates a new set-aside within the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) for projects in rural areas. Of the amount apportioned to a State, up to 15 percent may be used on eligible projects, including maintenance of ice roads, or transferred to the Denali Commission. In rural Alaska, ice roads are critical infrastructure, serving as an important link between remote villages during the winter.

### **Airports:**

- \$15 billion in formula funding for the FAA Airport Improvement Program which supports projects such as planning, installing, and expanding runways, gates, and taxiways and improving runway lighting and navigation.
- \$5 billion for FAA’s Facilities and Equipment Program, which includes funding for FAA-owned Air Traffic Control facilities and contract towers. Alaska, with so many of its communities accessible only by air, depends on safety in the skies.
- \$5 billion in grants for a new Airport Terminal Improvement Program, which includes set asides for small hub airports, non-hub, and nonprimary airports, ensuring airports in communities of all sizes benefit.

### **Buses/Ferries:**

- \$1 billion for a new program that establishes an essential ferry service to support rural communities. This program, which was proposed by Senator Murkowski, will provide funding to the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- \$250 million for an electric or low-emitting ferry pilot program, with at least one pilot to be conducted in the state with the most Marine Highway System miles—Alaska, which has more than 3,100 miles of Marine Highway, much of which is in Southeast Alaska.
- \$342 million for the Construction of Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities Program, of which Alaska should receive \$73 million. Provides an authorization for recipients of funding under the program to spend on ferry “operating costs”. Alaska operators who previously received formula funds under this program in FY20 were the Alaska Marine Highway System, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Inter-Island Ferry Authority, and Seldovia Village Tribe.
- Authorizes Federal-aid highway funds to the Alaska Marine Highway System to be spent on operation and repair.

- \$5.25 billion for the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program that supports the purchase of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses and construction of supporting facilities –important to communities such as Juneau.

### **Railroads:**

- \$5 billion for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) Program to assist the Alaska Railroad with critical capital projects and rail safety technologies.

### **Ports:**

- \$2.25 billion for the Port Infrastructure Development Program which provides critical support to ports big and small throughout Alaska.
- Provides \$250 million for remote and subsistence harbor construction. This will go toward building ports in rural areas, many of which are not connected to a road system and in need of a port—a lifeblood to rural communities in Alaska.
- Includes \$465 million for U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers' Continuing Authorities Program, which will help smaller communities across the country.
- Funds \$429 million on the Coast Guard's unfunded priority list and for childcare development centers. This funding will support our Coast Guard personnel in Kodiak, Sitka, and Ketchikan. An additional \$5 million has also been funded for the operational and maintenance costs of these efforts.

### **Energy and Natural Resources:**

- Includes \$355 million for the Energy Storage Demonstration Projects and Pilot Grants Program, which ensure more efficient energy storage infrastructure.
- \$3.21 billion for Advanced Reactor Demonstration Project, which will allow more headroom for micro reactors, an extremely promising technology for deployment in Alaska.
- Provides \$146.4 million to carry out hydropower and marine energy research. Funding from this program is used by the Alaska Hydrokinetic Energy Research Center (AHERC) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and works to assess the feasibility and deployment of hydrokinetic resources in Alaska.
- Includes \$264 million in funding for geothermal, wind, and solar energy projects. This will help the deployment and expansion of renewable energy resources in Alaska.

- Removes barriers to participation by Alaska Native and Indian Tribes in programs that are part of the bill's Energy Infrastructure Act.
- Includes more than \$4.7 billion for orphaned well cleanup, including Alaska's legacy wells in the NPR-A.

### **Grid Infrastructure and Resiliency**

- Includes a set-aside for Small Utilities of 30 percent of program funds aimed toward preventing outages and enhancing resilience of the electric grid. Most Alaska utilities would qualify for this set-aside. Fifty percent of program funds will go to States or Indian Tribes.
- Provides \$1 billion specifically for rural or remote areas (populations not more than 10,000 inhabitants) to improve the resiliency, safety, reliability, and the availability of energy. This funding will help Alaskan communities and Native villages to improve overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems, providing or modernizing electric generating facilities and developing microgrids.
- Includes Senator Murkowski's bill, S. 1400, the PROTECT Act, which enhances the electric grid by incentivizing electric utilities to make cybersecurity investments and makes available \$250 million in grants and technical assistance for small utility providers that are not regulated by FERC, which includes many of the cooperatives and municipal utilities across Alaska.

### **Supply Chains for Clean Energy Technologies**

- Includes over \$825 million to strengthen our nation's mineral security.
- \$23 million is provided for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program, which sustains Geologic Materials Center in Anchorage.
- Includes \$320 million for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative that will help us better understand the quantity, type, and location of mineral resources in Alaska, like the Yukon-Tanana uplands.
- Provides over \$6 billion for battery processing and manufacturing, including grants for commercial-scale battery materials processing facilities. This could benefit firms who are looking to produce and refine battery materials such as graphite and rare earth elements in Alaska.
- Makes critical mineral development projects eligible for DOE's Title 17 Loan Guarantee to receive financing. To date, over \$25 billion has been distributed through the Title 17 program.

Fuels and Technology Infrastructure Investments

- Provides over \$34 billion for carbon capture and storage and related programs, hydropower funding, clean hydrogen, and civil nuclear credits. All these technologies have enormous consequence for Alaska.
- Supports Alaska's enormous potential for hydropower—which could provide communities with renewable, affordable, and clean energy—by including incentive payments to upgrade hydropower facilities.
- Secures \$100 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to establish a program for small water storage projects, including in Alaska and Hawaii.
- Repeals an outdated limitation on \$18 billion in loan guarantees that has been set aside for an Alaska gas line, thus ensuring the gas line can access the funds.

#### Energy Efficiency and Building Infrastructure

- Over \$6 billion included for energy efficiency measures across the whole bill, including \$250 million for loan fund capitalization grants, \$3.5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program, \$550 million for energy efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, and \$225 million for efficiency and resiliency code implementation. These programs will help Alaskans reduce their energy costs, put money back into their pockets, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

There are many aspects where the funding can be applied. If you have any questions about how the funding programs work, would like more information or have a project that you would like to be updated on please contact:

Patrick FitzGerald

Political Coordinator

907-230-8809

[pfitzgerald@akreamsters.com](mailto:pfitzgerald@akreamsters.com)