



REBUILDING AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Our nation's infrastructure is literally collapsing around us. We commute on congested roads with hazardous potholes, over bridges in disrepair, and far too many of us are forced to drink water from leaching lead pipes. Students and education professionals across the nation learn and work in unsafe facilities without basic resources. Austerity budgets have put communities at risk. America cannot afford an infrastructure proposal that becomes a Trojan horse for bad policies, like more tax cuts, inefficient tax credits, or privatization that profits corporations at steep expense to taxpayers.

AFSCME urges Congress to support a real infrastructure plan with investments that improves roads, bridges, transit, schools and water systems. An infrastructure plan should grow our economy, create good jobs, invest in communities, promote public health, and enable workers to have a strong voice on the job. **AFSCME urges Congress to:**

- **Provide the necessary level of investments to rebuild transportation infrastructure: \$319 billion for roads, highways and bridges, and \$105 billion for transit.**
- **Provide \$35 billion to fully fund the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds and increase funding for the School Drinking Water Grant Program.**
- **Provide \$70 billion in grants and \$30 billion in bonds to help address critical physical and digital infrastructure needs in public schools across the country.**
- **Provide \$70 billion to address the public housing capital backlog.**
- **Authorize \$5 billion for the Build America's Libraries Fund to support long-term improvements to library facilities.**
- **Authorize \$20 billion in critical investments in child care, education and workforce development, including for state and public workforce systems for dislocated workers who are seeking jobs that are essential to economic infrastructure.**
- **Provide \$500 million in federal funding for states to improve their unemployment technology systems.**
- **Establish an automatic increase in federal Medicaid funds triggered by a rise in unemployment in a state, in order to rebuild our economy back better, stabilize state budgets, and ensure health care coverage for the unemployed.**

- **Establish a Public Health Infrastructure program to address chronic underfunding of state, local, tribal and territorial public health infrastructure through a sustained, dedicated investment in public health foundational capabilities and workforce.**

AVOID OUTSOURCING AND PROTECT WORKERS

The outsourcing of engineering, design, inspection, supervision, and management to corporations and private firms is increasing despite studies showing that outsourcing engineering and similar functions costs more than doing the work in-house. State transportation departments should conduct cost-benefit studies before outsourcing engineering and similar services on federally-funded projects.

Public-Private Partnerships and Private Activity Bonds (PABs) are costly tax subsidies for private companies seeking profits at the taxpayers' expense. AFSCME believes Congress must support robust federal oversight of any proposed transfers of ownership or operations and **oppose any policy that promotes the privatization of public services or infrastructure.**

- **Pass the Safety, Efficiency, and Accountability in Transportation Projects Through Public Inspection Act of 2019 (H.R. 1099) which would require public employees to perform construction inspection functions in carrying out a design-build project that uses a 2-phase contract.**
- **Maintain transparent, accountable, and sound management of publicly owned infrastructure and assets, and ensure that local jurisdictions are adequately protected from partisan power grabs seeking to strip them of those assets.**
- **Limit Private Activity Bonds (PABs) and other forms of tax-exempt financing to projects that create good jobs and require worker protections like those associated with federal grants and contracts: 1) Prevailing wages and benefits for operations and maintenance workers; 2) Federal Transit Act (Section 13c) type protections of the wages, benefits, working conditions and collective bargaining rights for affected operations and maintenance workers; 3) Davis-Bacon wage and benefit requirements for construction work; 4) Transfer worker protection requirements to all future employers for the length of the agreement.**

*Department of Federal Government Affairs
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AFSCME's 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and freedom and opportunity for all working families.