



INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IIJA

Background:

Enactment of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides a historic opportunity to upgrade our transportation, water, energy, and communications networks to improve the quality of life for all Americans. The programs and projects funded over the next five years will facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, improve safety, provide clean water, enhance environmental clean-up and mitigation, address the impacts of climate change, and provide new economic development opportunities for our communities.

America's engineering industry is committed to delivering these promised benefits. Successful implementation of IIJA programs is going to require a strong partnership between federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector, and a commitment from policymakers to sustain the committed funds and make policy adjustments where necessary to respond to changing conditions.

Key Points:

- **Addressing Workforce and Innovation** – The shortage of engineers and competition for talent requires companies to increase salaries and benefits to attract and retain the workforce needed to deliver the infrastructure funded through the IIJA. ACEC supports the FAR-based regulations that already govern state DOT engineering contracts that ensure that salaries and other expenses reflect current economic conditions. ACEC also urges state DOTs to utilize more fixed-fee contracts, which will give firms added flexibility to address their workforce needs and control costs.
- **Environment and Infrastructure Goals** – Successful project delivery can improve infrastructure and protect the environment. ACEC strongly supports the One Federal Decision provisions in the new law, which codify bipartisan reforms to the NEPA process to enhance coordination between agencies, and simplify regulatory reviews while also advancing environmental performance and public interest protections, including social equity and environmental justice considerations.
- **Buy America Procedures** – The engineering industry supports efforts to strengthen the domestic manufacturing base, but procurement policies must be flexible to accommodate situations where certain materials or technologies essential for infrastructure projects are not available in the U.S.
- **Funding Commitments and Supporting Revenues** – IIJA provides long-term funding stability to state and local agencies, which enables the planning and delivery of significant and complex infrastructure projects. ACEC strongly opposes efforts to suspend or reduce federal motor fuel taxes or other user fees, which do not meaningfully lower consumer prices and which could undermine long-term financial support for infrastructure programs.

Requests:

- » Ensure compliance with federal procurement rules so that contract terms and rates reflect actual costs and promote more utilization of value-based contracting.
- » Protect project delivery reforms in the new law to reduce obstacles and facilitate efficient regulatory reviews.
- » Adopt reasonable Buy America policies that accommodate access to necessary materials.
- » Retain robust funding commitments in the law and reject reductions in user fees.