



*The story of America's infrastructure is the story of our nation. As we debate what comes next, we need to focus on solving the key challenges our nation faces now, and solving those problems as quickly as possible.*

# Blueprint for Tomorrow

*Strengthening American Infrastructure for Healthier and More Sustainable Communities*

America needs a new vision for federal infrastructure policy that focuses attention on the 21st century's toughest challenges, from ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans to addressing global warming. A new approach to federal infrastructure investment policy would follow four common-sense principles.

**Principle 1: Focus infrastructure investment on what matters.**

The infrastructure we build today will shape American life for generations to come. By prioritizing infrastructure investment to achieve important goals in five main areas – clean energy, clean water, solid waste and recycling, natural infrastructure and transportation – decision-makers can lay a solid foundation for the health and prosperity of the nation.

**Principle 2: Fix it first.**

Americans have spent trillions of dollars to build infrastructure that we subsequently allowed to fall into disrepair. To maximize the value of taxpayer dollars, the nation's infrastructure vision should prioritize repair and rehabilitation of useful, existing infrastructure over the creation

of new infrastructure, where cost-effective and appropriate.

**Principle 3: Don't invest in infrastructure that will need to be abandoned before the end of its useful life.**

Global warming is the most important challenge of our time and no infrastructure investment should be made without considering its implications. We should not invest or allow the construction of fossil fuel infrastructure that will need to be abandoned as the nation transitions to cleaner forms of energy.

**Principle 4: Get the most out of our infrastructure.**

Building the biggest, most expensive infrastructure is not always the best approach available to meeting a community's needs. Using our existing infrastructure more efficiently can often reduce the amount we need to spend, with similar benefits.

# Infrastructure Priorities for Federal Decisionmakers

A bold, visionary infrastructure plan would prioritize investment in five key areas essential to public health, the preservation of a livable climate, and the quality of life in our communities.

## Energy

To improve our energy infrastructure, the Trump administration and Congress should:

- Increase funding for clean, renewable energy infrastructure and modernizing the electric grid, facilitating the nation's transition to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Incentivize retrofits of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency.
- Invest in energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy at all federal and federally funded facilities.

## Water

To improve our water infrastructure, the nation should:

- Get the lead out of drinking water by funding the replacement of lead service lines, as well as fountains, faucets and other lead-bearing parts in the water delivery systems of schools and preschools.
- Prevent sewage overflows and runoff pollution by dramatically increasing funding for natural and green infrastructure projects.
- Stop water waste by funding the replacement of aging water pipes and investments in water efficiency.

## Natural Infrastructure

To improve our conservation infrastructure, federal policy makers should:

- Invest more federal funding in protecting our wild and natural lands.
- Limit or otherwise ban the construction of infrastructure that threatens our natural infrastructure and wild places.
- Fully fund the National Park Service maintenance backlog.

## Solid Waste

To improve our solid waste infrastructure, the federal government should:

- Increase federal funding for cities and states to improve existing recycling infrastructure and increase participation in recycling programs.
- Increase incentives for private sector companies providing recycling services to develop new technologies and improve waste infrastructure.
- Increase federal funding for composting programs.

## Transportation

To improve our transportation infrastructure, federal officials should:

- Focus funding on repairing existing roads and stop funding carbon-intensive highway projects.
- Increase funding for public transportation to make transit a viable option for more Americans.
- Invest more federal funding in modes of travel such as walking and biking, as well as innovative programs to get the most out of our existing transportation infrastructure by managing travel demand.