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## GENERAL MEMORANDUM 21-005

### Senate Set to Take Up Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill with Tribal Provisions

After substantial negotiations with the Biden Administration, a bipartisan group of Senators has produced a nearly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill titled the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act." The Senate is set to vote on the bill and amendments later this week but it is unclear when the House may consider the measure. The House is currently expected to be in recess until September 20, 2021, but may reconvene to address this legislation. The bill includes a five-year surface transportation reauthorization and would make investments in transportation, drinking water and wastewater, broadband, climate resiliency, environmental remediation, and electrical transmission. It includes tribal provisions. We attach President Biden's statement on the bill as well as the White House fact sheet.

Some tribal-specific provisions include:

- A five year reauthorization of the Tribal Transportation Program with stepped increases in funding from the Highway Trust Fund starting at \$578.4 million per fiscal year in FY 2022 and reaching \$627.9 million per fiscal year in FY 2026;
- A five year reauthorization of the Environmental Protection Agency's Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program at \$50 million per fiscal year;
- A five year reauthorization of grants to Alaska to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages with stepped increases in funding from \$40 million per fiscal year in FY 2022 to \$60 million per fiscal year in FY 2026;
- An additional \$2 billion, to remain available until expended, for grants for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program;
- The establishment of a \$2.5 billion "Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund" to remain available until expended and to be used by the Secretary of the Interior for approved Indian water settlements;
- \$216 million for "tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges facing tribal communities across the country"; and
- \$3.5 billion appropriated for Indian Health Facilities to remain available until expended for the provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians.

Please let us know if we may provide additional information about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2021

**Statement by President Joe Biden on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal**

I am pleased to join a bipartisan group of United States Senators and announce our deal to make the most significant long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century.

I want to thank the bipartisan group for working together and the committee chairs for raising their ideas and concerns with me, Vice President Harris, and members of the Cabinet.

This deal signals to the world that our democracy can function, deliver, and do big things. As we did with the transcontinental railroad and the interstate highway, we will once again transform America and propel us into the future.

This deal makes key investments to put people to work all across the country—in cities, small towns, rural communities, and across our coastlines and plains.

It will put Americans to work in good-paying, union jobs repairing our roads and bridges. It will put plumbers and pipefitters to work replacing all of the nation's lead water pipes so every child and every American can turn on the faucet at home or school and drink clean water—including in low-income communities and communities of color that have been disproportionately affected by dangerous lead pipes.

Americans will build transmission lines and upgrade our power grid to be more resilient and cleaner. Americans will strengthen our infrastructure, like our levees, in the face of extreme weather like superstorms, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, and heat waves.

American workers will make a historic investment to install the first-ever national network electric vehicle charging stations and undertake critical environmental clean-ups.

This bipartisan deal is the most important investment in public transit in American history and the most important investment in rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago. It will deliver high speed internet to every American.

And, we're going to do it without raising taxes by one cent on people making less than \$400,000 a year—no gas tax increase and no fee on electric vehicles.

This agreement will help ensure that America can compete in the global economy just when we are in a race with China and the rest of the world for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

And, it comes at a critical time. We are emerging from this pandemic with an economy that is back from the brink. We are seeing the fastest job growth on record. We are experiencing the fastest economic growth in nearly four decades.

Everyone from unions to business leaders and economists left, right, and center believe the public investments in this deal will mean more jobs, higher productivity, and higher growth for our economy over the long term. Experts believe that the majority of the deal's benefits will flow to working families.

Of course, neither side got everything they wanted in this deal. But that's what it means to compromise and forge consensus—the heart of democracy. As the deal goes to the entire Senate, there is still plenty of work ahead to bring this home. There will be disagreements to resolve and more compromise to forge along the way.

But the bottom line is—the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America that will help make our historic economic recovery a historic long-term boom.

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## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 28, 2021

### **FACT SHEET: Historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal**

Today, the President and the bipartisan group announced agreement on the details of a once-in-a-generation investment in our infrastructure, which will be taken up in the Senate for consideration. In total, the deal includes \$550 billion in new federal investment in America's infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will grow the economy, enhance our competitiveness, create good jobs, and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and just.

The deal will create good-paying, union jobs. With the President's Build Back Better Agenda, these investments will add, on average, around 2 million jobs *per year* over the course of the decade, while accelerating America's path to full employment and increasing labor force participation.

President Biden believes that we must invest in our country and in our people by creating good-paying union jobs, tackling the climate crisis, and growing the economy sustainably and equitably for decades to come. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will deliver progress towards those objectives for working families across the country. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal:

- Makes the largest federal investment in public transit ever
- Makes the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak
- Makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system

- Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history, delivering clean water to millions of families
- Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet
- Helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history; electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country; and creating a new Grid Development Authority to build a clean, 21<sup>st</sup> century electric grid

The President promised to work across the aisle to deliver results for working families. He believes demonstrating that democracies can deliver is a critical challenge for his presidency. Today's agreement shows that we can come together to position American workers, farmers, and businesses to compete and win in the 21st century.

### **Roads, Bridges, and Major Projects**

One in five miles, or 173,000 total miles, of our highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges are in poor condition. Bridges in poor condition pose heightened challenges in rural communities, which often may rely on a single bridge for the passage of emergency service vehicles. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will invest \$110 billion of new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects, and reauthorize the surface transportation program for the next five years building on bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bills passed out of committee earlier this year. This investment will repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. The bill includes a total of \$40 billion of new funding for bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation, which **is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system**. The bill also includes a total of \$17.5 billion for major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs but will deliver significant economic benefits to communities.

### **Safety**

America has one of the highest road fatality rates in the industrialized world. The deal invests \$11 billion in transportation safety programs, including a new Safe Streets for All program to help states and localities reduce crashes and fatalities in their communities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians. **It will more than double funding directed to programs that improve the safety of**

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**people and vehicles in our transportation system, including highway safety, truck safety, and pipeline and hazardous materials safety.**

### **Public Transit**

America's transit infrastructure is inadequate – with a multibillion-dollar repair backlog, representing more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations, and thousands of miles of track, signals, and power systems in need of replacement. The deal invests \$39 billion of new investment to modernize transit, and improve accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities, in addition to continuing the existing transit programs for five years as part of surface transportation reauthorization. **This is the largest Federal investment in public transit in history, and devotes a larger share of funds from surface transportation reauthorization to transit in the history of the programs. It will repair and upgrade aging infrastructure, modernize bus and rail fleets, make stations accessible to all users, and bring transit service to new communities.** It will replace thousands of transit vehicles, including buses, with clean, zero emission vehicles. And, it will benefit communities of color since these households are twice as likely to take public transportation and many of these communities lack sufficient public transit options.

### **Passenger and Freight Rail**

Unlike highways and transit, rail lacks a multi-year funding stream to address deferred maintenance, enhance existing corridors, and build new lines in high-potential locations. The deal positions Amtrak and rail to play a central role in our transportation and economic future. **This is the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago.** The deal invests \$66 billion in rail to eliminate the Amtrak maintenance backlog, modernize the Northeast Corridor, and bring world-class rail service to areas outside the northeast and mid-Atlantic. Within these totals, \$22 billion would be provided as grants to Amtrak, \$24 billion as federal-state partnership grants for Northeast Corridor modernization, \$12 billion for partnership grants for intercity rail service, including high-speed rail, \$5 billion for rail improvement and safety grants, and \$3 billion for grade crossing safety improvements.

### **EV Infrastructure**

U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) sales is only one-third the size of the Chinese EV market. The President believes that must change. The bill

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invests \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV chargers. **This is the first-ever national investment in EV charging infrastructure in the United States and is a critical element in the Biden-Harris Administration’s plan to accelerate the adoption of EVs to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs.** The bill will provide funding for deployment of EV chargers along highway corridors to facilitate long-distance travel and within communities to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop. Federal funding will have a particular focus on rural, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities.

### **Electric Buses**

American school buses play a critical role in expanding access to education, but they are also a significant source of pollution. **The deal will deliver thousands of electric school buses nationwide, including in rural communities, helping school districts across the country buy clean, American-made, zero emission buses, and replace the yellow school bus fleet for America’s children.** The deal invests \$2.5 billion in zero emission buses, \$2.5 billion in low emission buses, and \$2.5 billion for ferries. These investments will drive demand for American-made batteries and vehicles, creating jobs and supporting domestic manufacturing, while also removing diesel buses from some of our most vulnerable communities. In addition, they will help the more than 25 million children and thousands of bus drivers who breathe polluted air on their rides to and from school. Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other health problems that hurt our communities and cause students to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities.

### **Reconnecting Communities**

Too often, past transportation investments divided communities – like the Claiborne Expressway in New Orleans or I-81 in Syracuse – or it left out the people most in need of affordable transportation options. In particular, significant portions of the interstate highway system were built through Black neighborhoods. **The deal creates a first-ever program to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure.** The program will fund planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure through \$1 billion of dedicated funding.

### **Airports, Ports, and Waterways**

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The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. According to some rankings, no U.S. airports rank in the top 25 of airports worldwide. Our ports and waterways need repair and reimagining too. **The bill invests \$17 billion in port infrastructure and \$25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies.** Modern, resilient, and sustainable port, airport, and freight infrastructure will support U.S. competitiveness by removing bottlenecks and expediting commerce and reduce the environmental impact on neighboring communities.

### **Resilience and Western Water Infrastructure**

Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change each year when their roads wash out, airport power goes down, or schools get flooded. Last year alone, the United States faced 22 extreme weather and climate-related disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each – a cumulative price tag of nearly \$100 billion. People of color are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to flooding and other climate change-related weather events. **The deal makes our communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber attacks, with an investment of over \$50 billion.** This includes funds to protect against droughts and floods, in addition to a major investment in weatherization. The bill is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history.

### **Clean Drinking Water**

Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. **The deal's \$55 billion investment represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including dedicated funding to replace lead service lines and the dangerous chemical PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl).** It will replace all of the nation's lead pipes and service lines. From rural towns to struggling cities, the deal invests in water infrastructure across America, including in Tribal Nations and disadvantaged communities that need it most.

### **High-Speed Internet**

Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health care, and to stay connected. Yet, by one definition, more than 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no

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broadband infrastructure that provides minimally acceptable speeds – a particular problem in rural communities throughout the country. **The deal's \$65 billion investment ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet with an historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment**, just as the federal government made a historic effort to provide electricity to every American nearly one hundred years ago.

The bill will also help lower prices for internet service by requiring funding recipients to offer a low-cost affordable plan, by creating price transparency and helping families comparison shop, and by boosting competition in areas where existing providers aren't providing adequate service. It will also help close the digital divide by passing the Digital Equity Act, ending digital redlining, creating a permanent program to help more low-income households access the internet, and establishing a new program to help low-income households obtain the devices required to access the internet.

### **Environmental Remediation**

In thousands of rural and urban communities around the country, hundreds of thousands of former industrial and energy sites are now idle – sources of blight and pollution. 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall. Proximity to a Superfund site can lead to elevated levels of lead in children's blood. **The deal invests \$21 billion in environmental remediation, making the largest investment in addressing the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods in American history, creating good-paying union jobs in hard-hit energy communities and advancing economic and environmental justice.** The bill includes funds to clean up superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim abandoned mine land and cap orphaned gas wells.

### **Power Infrastructure**

As the recent Texas power outages demonstrated, our aging electric grid needs urgent modernization. A Department of Energy study found that power outages cost the U.S. economy up to \$70 billion annually. **The deal's \$73 billion investment is the single largest investment in clean energy transmission in American history.** It upgrades our power infrastructure, including by building thousands of miles of new, resilient transmission lines to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy. It creates a new Grid Deployment Authority, invests in research and development for advanced transmission and

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electricity distribution technologies, and promotes smart grid technologies that deliver flexibility and resilience. It invests in demonstration projects and research hubs for next generation technologies like advanced nuclear reactors, carbon capture, and clean hydrogen.

### **Offsets**

In the years ahead, the deal, which will generate significant economic benefits, and it is financed through a combination of redirecting unspent emergency relief funds, targeted corporate user fees, strengthening tax enforcement when it comes to crypto currencies, and other bipartisan measures, in addition to the revenue generated from higher economic growth as a result of the investments.

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