**Infrastructure Week 2019: #BuildForTomorrow**

**America’s future will be shaped by the infrastructure choices we make today.** Our economy, communities, and families all depend on infrastructure. Infrastructure gets us to work and our children to school, powers our homes and businesses, and ensures deliveries arrive on time. We rely on it every day to get water to our taps, to connect our phones and computers, and to keep us safe from natural disasters.

**Voters across the political spectrum want elected officials to invest in infrastructure.** Infrastructure investment is an urgent bipartisan issue that everyone can get behind. More than 79 percent of voters believe it is *extremely important* that Congress and the Administration increase investment in public infrastructure.⁴ In 2018, voters approved 77 percent of state and local infrastructure ballot measures, continuing a long trend of support for infrastructure investment.²

**The benefits of investing in infrastructure far outweigh the costs.** Every $1 invested in infrastructure generates $3.70 in economic growth, while repairing and modernizing our nation’s public infrastructure would add $1,400 in income to the average household annually for the next 20 years.³ When we invest in infrastructure, we create jobs, increase productivity, and make our neighborhoods stronger and safer.

**Inaction is the greatest cost.** Just because we’re not investing enough to modernize and maintain our infrastructure doesn’t mean we aren’t paying for it. While Washington debates how to move forward, Americans are footing the bill – an additional $9 *every day* for each American family.⁴ The poor quality of our nation’s roads costs the average driver $533⁵ each year in repairs. Commuters waste an average of 42 hours⁶ per year and millions of dollars in fuel stuck in traffic. Aging and strained water utilities are trying to keep pace with demand, while water-reliant businesses, from breweries to automakers, lose as much as $5,800⁷ per employee for each day of disrupted water service. More than $1.3 trillion⁸ in property lies in the path of under-maintained aging levees, dams, and other critical infrastructure, which is putting whole communities at risk. We’re paying billions of dollars to repair our infrastructure from natural disasters instead of building more resiliently to prepare for future risks.

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¹ Politico/Harvard Center for Politics Poll, January 2019  
² Eno Center for Transportation, *Transportation at the Ballot Box*, 2018  
³ Business Roundtable, *Delivering For America*, January 2019  
⁴ ASCE, *Failure to Act*, 2016  
⁵ TRIP, National Factsheet, May 2017  
⁶ ASCE, 2017 Infrastructure Report Card  
⁸ ASCE, 2017 Infrastructure Report Card
Meanwhile, our global competitors are modernizing old systems and building new ones, with profound implications for trade, competitiveness, and geopolitics.

Many communities are making the right choices. State and local leaders are raising revenue, attracting investors, and delivering projects that communities need to thrive. The number of structurally deficient bridges is finally shrinking as thousands are repaired. Many drinking water utilities are modernizing their water treatment and delivery systems, while wastewater utilities are investing in technologies to reduce costs and use less energy. Companies and cities are deploying new communications technologies with transformative implications for transportation, healthcare, and agriculture industries. Rideshare, bicycles, scooters, and other mobility solutions are working with public transit to ease congestion and solve “last mile” challenges for suburban, rural, and handicapped residents.

But large-scale action by the federal government to provide both a national vision for infrastructure and significant funding to support it? We still have a long way to go. Regional projects with implications for the national economy aren’t getting the funding they need. And state and local projects that depend, even partly, on federal funding, loans, permitting, and new regulatory action, aren’t breaking ground. False starts, delayed starts, deferred maintenance, and inadequate levels of investment are putting our infrastructure, our health and safety, and our economy at risk. Cities, counties, states, and the private sector are working hard, but need a strong, reliable federal partner to get the job done.

The choice is clear: with political courage, hard work, smart policy, and strong investment, we can give Americans the future they deserve. We can make our communities stronger, grow our economy, and improve our quality of life, but we need sound, ambitious, and steady infrastructure policy and investment – and we can only do it with a strong federal partner.

Now in its seventh year, led by a coalition of labor, business, and policy organizations, and joined by more than 400 affiliates nationwide, Infrastructure Week is uniting voices from coast to coast around one message to our leaders in Washington and beyond: Let's choose to #BuildForTomorrow.