


Roads and Bridges:

Diving Deeper into the 2021
Infrastructure Plan



A photograph of the Manhattan Bridge at sunset. The bridge's massive stone towers and intricate steel suspension cables are silhouetted against a sky of orange and yellow. In the foreground, the calm water of the East River reflects the bridge and the sky. A large, solid red circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text. In the background, the New York City skyline is visible across the water.

Every day, millions of people are traveling across our nation's highways and bridges, proving how essential these structures are to our day-to-day lives. As time goes by and as the number of vehicles on our roadways continues to increase, along with the effects of mother nature taking its toll, it's easy for these structures to deteriorate.



It's been over a decade since a large infrastructure plan has even been considered and that's what makes the 2021 infrastructure plan so important.

In 1956 the largest public works project in our country's history, largely known as the National Interstate and Defense Highway Act, was signed into law. This bill allowed for the building of our highway system. The problem today is that our government has not invested enough money to maintain the state of our highway and road infrastructure, which has led us to drop to 13th in the world for infrastructure quality.¹ Today our transportation infrastructure is in dire need of repair and it is clear this is an area where funding is greatly needed.

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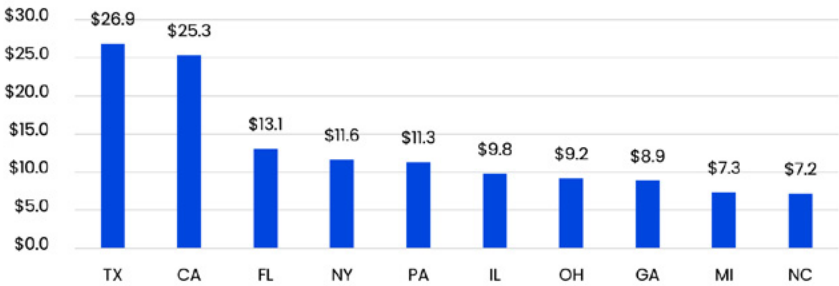
As of November 5th, 2021, the bill has passed the Senate and the House, and is now on its way to the President's office for signing. Once signed into law, it will be a huge step towards repairing our nation's infrastructure and should result in thousands of new opportunities for eager businesses to bid on.

What's in the Proposed Infrastructure Plan

The proposed plan currently sits at \$550 billion in new infrastructure spending, plus the annual baseline spending for the year, which will amount to around \$1 trillion. The main area where we'll see the most funding is the transportation sector, which includes roads and bridges, public transit, passenger freight and rail, electric vehicles and buses, airports, seaports, and waterways. \$110 billion will likely be set aside for the repair and replacement of thousands of roads and bridges across the U.S., earning the most funding out of this bill. Although it's still hard to pinpoint exactly how much money each state will receive for these projects, there is some tentative information on which states may receive the most funding. The graphs below show which states will most likely receive the largest amount of funding.

Estimated Funding for Highways

(in billions of dollars)

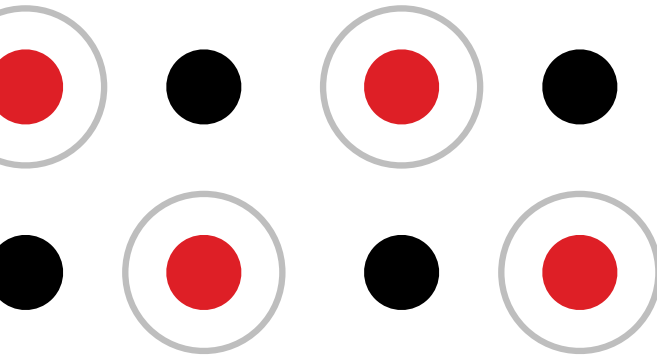


Estimated Funding for Bridges (in billions of dollars)



(Source: Franck, T., and Rattner, R. "These Charts Show Which States Will Get the Most Money from Biden's Infrastructure Bill." CNBC.com, 31. Aug. 21)

When states begin to receive funding for transportation projects, be ready to see an influx of new open bids & RFPs for roads, highways, and bridge work that you may be able to bid on.



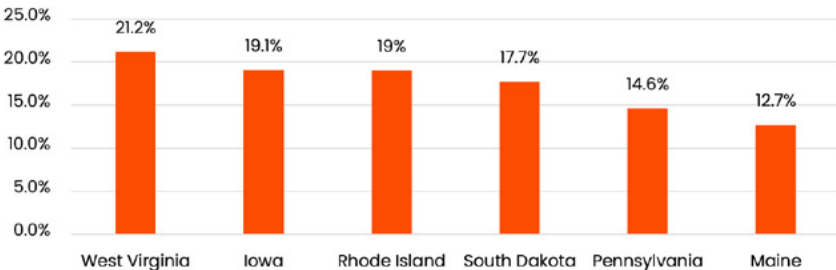


In the U.S. there are currently over 45,000 bridges deemed structurally deficient and over 220,000 in need of major repair.

The Current State of Our Bridges

In the U.S. there are currently over 45,000 bridges deemed structurally deficient and over 220,000 in need of major repair. The work needed varies from total replacement, to widening and rehabilitation, to paving and various other structural work. Some states' bridges are worse off than others. According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), West Virginia has the highest percentage of bridges in poor condition and Iowa has the largest number of structurally deficient bridges as seen in the charts below.

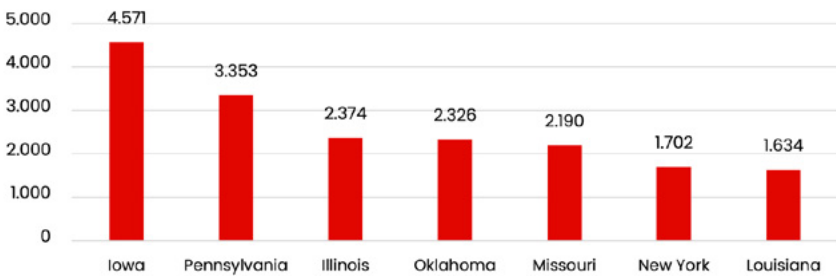
States with The Highest % of Bridges in Poor Condition





Some states' bridges are worse off than others.

States with The Largest Number of Structurally Deficient Bridges



(Source: Lockie, A. "States with the Most Structurally Deficient Bridges." Commercial Carrier Journal, 9. Jul. 21)

It's clear that improvements to our bridges in almost every state are required.

The Current State of Our Roads

Over 43% of our public roadways are in poor condition. That's thousands of miles of roads that need repairs such a repaving, pothole repairs, lane re-striping, guardrail repairs and more. According to a report done by the American Society of Civil Engineers, U.S. roads have been rated as a "D" because of their worsening conditions. Funding from this plan should greatly help improve the many damaged highways and roadways across the nation. The chart below shows the top ten states with the worst roads:

State	Percentage of roads in poor condition
1. Rhode Island	50%
2. Mississippi	27%
3. West Virginia	31%
4. Connecticut	34%
5. Maryland	27%
6. Hawaii	43%
7. California	35%
8. Washington	27%
9. Pennsylvania	27%
10. Missouri	25%

(Source: VinZant, N. "States with the Worst Road Infrastructure." QuoteWizard.com, 1. Mar. 21)

Within a final infrastructure plan, we can likely expect to see many of these states receive the support they need to start working on these long overdue projects.

Looking to The Future

Now is the best time to start preparing your business for what's ahead. Billions of dollars will be going towards roads, highways, and bridges to help improve the overall state of our infrastructure. Many federal, state, and local agencies across the U.S. will be looking for vendors to take the lead on these projects. We can likely expect to see hundreds, if not thousands of new bid opportunities relating to new infrastructure projects that your business can bid on.

By using a bidding intelligence service, you can easily be notified whenever these new opportunities are issued and can start bidding as soon as possible. Keeping up with our evolving economy means investing back in America, and that's what this infrastructure plan attempts to accomplish. By bidding on these new projects, your business will have the chance to win many of these lucrative contracts and be a big part of this major transformation.



References:

i 2021. The Washington Post.com. Here's How U.S. Infrastructure Compares to the Rest of the World. 01 Oct. 2021

