

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 4, 2022

The Honorable
State Capitol

Dear Governor,

With the signing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in mid-November, President Biden marked a new era of building a better America together. I am honored and humbled by the President's trust in me to oversee execution of this historic legislation. From bringing high-speed internet to every American, to replacing lead service lines to bring clean water to people's homes, to repairing thousands of roads and bridges, close coordination with Governors like you will be fundamental in the successful delivery of these programs. I'm writing today to share a few updates and offer a suggestion for your consideration in support of our partnership as we approach the new year.

The Infrastructure Implementation Task Force

On the same day he signed the bill into law, the President released an [Executive Order](#) creating an [Infrastructure Implementation Task Force](#) responsible for breaking down barriers and driving implementation of infrastructure investments across all levels of government to realize the President's vision of rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and positioning the U.S. to compete and win in the 21st century. This Task Force will bring together leaders from the federal departments and agencies with the most significant investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as well as agencies and White House offices with important responsibilities to support and assist those agencies. I am committed to driving consistency and accountability across agencies and will serve as a point of contact for you and other Governors as questions and challenges arise so we can build a better America in every community without leaving anyone behind.

Considerations as You Prepare for Implementation

One of the early directives we gave each Cabinet Member is to appoint Infrastructure Implementation Coordinators. These individuals are charged with leading the implementation of the various infrastructure programs within their agency, as well as working with other Coordinators across agencies on investments where multiple agencies are involved with implementation. These agency Implementation Coordinators will be available to your team as well.

As we organize ourselves for implementation, we have looked back at lessons learned and best practices from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) in 2009 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) earlier this year. During ARRA, the National Governors Association helped develop a network of state representatives to serve as recovery coordinators. **Given the success of this model and the highly integrated nature of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I humbly request that you consider**

appointing a high-level person to serve as your state's own Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. This individual would work with your budget team and across departments responsible for transportation, water, broadband, and energy investments to coordinate implementation of the various infrastructure programs, perhaps using a structure similar to the Infrastructure Implementation Task Force created by the President.

Also, we hope to look to this network of state representatives as state-level partners to provide my team and our agency partners with ongoing feedback as we advance various programs. We know that needs, capacity, and challenges can vary widely by locality. We need to make sure our programs reflect these realities across your state and our country, and having a senior, single point of contact in your office will help ensure that issues get elevated appropriately and rapidly.

Hit the Ground Running

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is historic in its size – the largest ever investments in broadband, rail and transit, clean energy, and water, just to name a few – as well as the breadth of programs and sectors included in the law. The infrastructure law allocated funding to over 100 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies. As you are aware, some programs are brand new while others are existing programs. In our office's first 30 days, we have prioritized getting as much information to you on formula-based, existing programs as possible, as well as long-range plans to help you prepare for what's coming. For example, we released a [Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan](#) with 15 actions across 10 agencies and our [EV Charging Action Plan](#) to build a national network of 500,000 chargers with a joint office between the Departments of Energy and Transportation. We have also announced a \$21 billion Office of Clean Energy Demonstration. In this short period of time, over \$65 billion is already heading out the door to states and local governments:

- U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) apportioned \$52 billion to states to repair roads & bridges in 2022;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) outlined \$7.4 billion in funding for states to spend on water infrastructure and replace lead pipes in 2022;
- USDOT/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced \$3 billion to modernize 3,075 airports across the country;
- EPA announced \$1 billion in funding to clean up 49 hazardous Superfund sites across 24 states; and
- USDOT awarded \$230 million in Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants to modernize more than 30 port sites across the country.

Additionally, each state can also apply now for \$100 million in grants to support high-speed internet deployment and new funding for orphan wells and mine remediation.

There's a lot to do in the new year. The President has been clear in his charge to me: make sure these programs get implemented without unnecessary bureaucracy and delay to rebuild America's infrastructure – while at the same time being good stewards

of taxpayer dollars and working to achieve goals around creating good middle-class jobs, supporting disadvantaged and underserved communities, advancing climate resilience and sustainability, and investing in American manufacturers. In January, our team, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will be releasing formal guidance to agencies on financial oversight and reporting, labor, Made in America/Buy America, equity, climate and resilience, and environmental justice. This will help set the policy parameters for much of the discretionary and remaining formula funding in 2022 and beyond. We are also working on a guidebook for both states and local governments to better understand key dates and things you can be doing now to prepare for these programs coming in 2022.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Please reach out to my team on any major issues or challenges you have with respect to implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. If and when you do appoint a senior implementation lead for your office, we would encourage that person reach out to our team as well. Thank you for your leadership.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitch Landrieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Mitch Landrieu
Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator
White House