



The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Arkansas

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century. **The need for action in Arkansas is clear and recently released state-level data demonstrates that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver for Arkansas.** For decades, infrastructure in Arkansas has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Arkansas a **C grade** on its infrastructure report card. The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for millions of Arkansas residents, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century.

To date, \$2.7 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Arkansas with over 141 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, Arkansas will receive approximately \$2.3 billion for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and roughly \$93 million for clean water. And, as of today, more than 147,000 households across the state are receiving affordable high-speed internet due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Many more projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and as formula funds become specific projects. By reaching communities all across Arkansas – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Arkansans and position the state for success.

Specifically, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make the following investments:

- **Roads and Bridges.** In Arkansas there are 663 bridges and over 6,700 miles of highway in poor condition. More than 5% of Arkansas's bridges are in poor condition and considered structurally deficient. **Arkansas has made significant progress in improving its roads and highway capacities through the \$1.8 billion Connecting Arkansas Program.** Since 2011, commute times have increased by 3% in Arkansas and on average, each driver pays \$671 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair.
 - **Based on formula funding alone, Arkansas would expect to receive \$3.6 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$278 million for bridge replacement and repairs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five (5) years.**
 - Arkansas can also compete for the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges and nearly \$16 billion of national funding in the bill dedicated for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.
- **Rail and Transit.** Arkansas's public transit systems serve a vital role in connecting the state's residents to jobs, health care, and other critical services. Residents of Arkansas who take public transportation spend an extra 31.7% of their time commuting. In addition, 27% of transit vehicles in the state are past useful life.
 - **Based on formula funding alone, Arkansas would expect to receive \$246 million over five years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the state.**
- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.** The IJJA invests \$7.5 billion to build out the first-ever national network of EV chargers in the United States.
 - **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Arkansas would expect**

to receive \$54 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state.

- Arkansas will also have the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.

- **Broadband.** Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health care, and to stay connected. Yet 20% of Arkansas households do not have an internet subscription, and 15% of Arkansas residents live in areas where, under the FCC's benchmark, there is no broadband infrastructure.

- Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Arkansas will receive a minimum allocation of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 461,000 residents who currently lack it. And, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 980,000 or 34% of people in Arkansas will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.

- **Clean Water/Wastewater.** The law contains nearly \$44 billion to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems, remove lead pipes and service lines, and eliminate harmful contaminants through the EPA's State Revolving Funds programs. These programs, administered by the states, make grants and loans eligible to communities for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investments. **Arkansas reports a \$7.4 billion drinking water investment gap.**

- Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on the traditional state revolving fund formula, Arkansas will expect to receive \$528 million over five (5) years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.

- **Airports.** Arkansas is home to six (6) major airports that will benefit from the \$25 billion in increased airport infrastructure funding provided over five (5) years from the IIJA.
 - **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, airports in Arkansas would receive approximately \$117 million for infrastructure development for airports over five (5) years.**
- **Ports and Inland Waterways.** Arkansas is home to three (3) major ports and 1,860 miles of inland waterways that **will benefit from \$17 billion in new infrastructure funding over 5 years from the IIJA.**
- **Grid and Clean Energy Infrastructure.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through the Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure, is focused on working across the public and private sectors to help the U.S. transition to the clean energy economy. **With more than \$75 billion in investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Arkansas will benefit from multiple opportunities focused on the rapid commercialization, demonstration, and deployment of clean energy technologies.** DOE is playing a critical role in efforts to rapidly lower energy costs, slash carbon emissions, and create new industries with the high-quality union jobs that are guaranteed to boost domestic manufacturing capabilities while strengthening U.S. global competitiveness.

This information was compiled by a variety of sources including, The White House, ASCE Infrastructure Report Card, Bureau of Transportation Statistics U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Bridge Technology, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, EPA CWSRF National Information Management System, EPA Drinking Water Needs Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.