

ACEC

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IIJA

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is advancing tens of thousands of projects to upgrade our transportation, water, energy, and communications networks to improve the quality of life for all Americans. These critical projects facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, improve safety, provide clean water, enhance environmental clean-up and mitigation, address the impacts of climate change, and provide new economic development opportunities for our communities.

America's engineering industry is committed to delivering these promised benefits. Successful implementation of IIJA programs requires a strong partnership between federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector, and a commitment from policymakers to sustain the committed funds and make policy adjustments where necessary to respond to changing conditions.

KEY POINTS

MAINTAIN FUNDING COMMITMENTS

The IIJA provides long-term funding stability to state and local agencies, which enables the planning and delivery of significant and complex infrastructure projects. Timely enactment of annual appropriations bills to unlock those funds, along with continued prioritization of key infrastructure accounts, is essential to fulfilling the expected benefits. Lawmakers should also start considering now what revenue options are available to finance federal infrastructure programs at the expiration of the IIJA in 2026.

ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The IIJA includes dozens of new programs that open exciting new grant opportunities for cities, towns, and municipalities. Community officials are struggling with the myriad application deadlines and requirements, and grants are slow to be administered once they are awarded. ACEC supports additional technical assistance, training, and outreach, but strongly opposes waiving long-standing federal procurement rules for local governments managing federal funds.

MEET ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS

ACEC supported the project delivery reforms included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act to foster a more technologically advanced, focused, transparent, and accountable permitting process. The revisions to the NEPA implementing regulations ought to carefully reflect the intent and benefit of those bipartisan statutory changes, including narrowing the scope of what impacts are reasonably foreseeable and what alternatives ought to be considered. Effective implementation of the law will save time, improve environmental performance, and facilitate public interest protections.

ADOPT REASONABLE BUY AMERICA PROCEDURES

The engineering industry supports efforts to strengthen the domestic manufacturing base, but procurement policies must be flexible to accommodate situations where certain materials or technologies essential for infrastructure projects are not available in the U.S.

REQUEST

- 1** Fulfill the robust funding commitments in the law and consider revenue options for long-term fiscal stability.
- 2** Protect project delivery reforms to reduce obstacles and facilitate efficient regulatory reviews.
- 3** Adopt reasonable Buy America policies that accommodate access to necessary materials.
- 4** Support speedier administration of local grant awards without waiving federal regulations.