



# Transportation and Infrastructure: Catching Up and Building for Tomorrow

Manufacturers have risen to the occasion to meet great challenges, give more Americans a chance to improve their lives and build our nation for the future. Now, as the structures that support the movement of free enterprise and families are frail and failing—resting on a legacy built by previous generations—manufacturers are asking lawmakers to follow our example and strengthen the foundations that make our work and daily lives possible: our nation's infrastructure.

Since President Dwight Eisenhower's vision and leadership led to investment in an interstate system more than a half century ago, U.S. infrastructure investments have been neglected. Infrastructure investment today is only one-third of what it was in 1960 in terms of percent of GDP. However, after years of inaction, members of Congress have begun to work together to pass bipartisan infrastructure authorization bills for surface transportation, aviation and waterways. While these efforts have succeeded in maintaining the status quo, they do not present solutions to address chronic funding shortages or the backlog of projects of national and regional significance that have been on the to-do list for decades. Outdated infrastructure

costs families \$3,300 in disposable income every year, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, and accounts for an almost \$10.3 trillion GDP loss over 20 years.

Manufacturers need lawmakers to deliver visionary, transformative infrastructure that can bolster the 21st-century economy. In "[Building to Win](#)," the NAM's blueprint for modernizing our transportation, energy, water and digital infrastructure, we have provided them with an outline for accomplishing these necessary upgrades.

Manufacturing workers in the United States, indeed all Americans, should refuse to settle for infrastructure that jeopardizes safety, wastes time and slows or shuts down shop floors. "Building to Win" calls for at least \$1 trillion in much-needed new investment over the next decade. By following the manufacturers' plan, federal lawmakers have the opportunity to strengthen the ties that bind us together as a country, improve commerce and communication and pave the way for the success of the next generation.

## A Transportation and Infrastructure Agenda for the Future Must:

- Fully fund infrastructure investments to upgrade the systems that support modern manufacturers and achieve transportation efficiencies for families, communities and commerce.
- Promote safety and embrace the benefits of innovation in 21st-century transportation and infrastructure systems.
- Recognize the important federal role in overseeing, maintaining and investing in the nation's transportation network.

“There is nothing more satisfying than connecting with, supporting and empowering our customers and dealers day in and day out. To ensure our products arrive at the customer site, we rely on roads, bridges, rails, airports, ports and waterways. Modern and efficient transportation systems allow us to do the work—the efficient flow of materials to suppliers, of parts in and out of our manufacturing plants and, ultimately, of products to our customer site is heavily dependent on our transportation systems. Building a better world starts with building a better infrastructure—now and into the future.”

—Denise Johnson, Resource Industries Group President, Caterpillar Inc.

## Actions for Leaders to Take:

- ✓ Modernize user fees, such as the federal fuels tax and passenger facility charge that support roadway and runway projects.
- ✓ Seek new forward-looking solutions that prioritize and inventory the growing backlog of essential infrastructure projects.
- ✓ Continue to improve the broken permitting and approval system that adds years of unnecessary delays and costs to projects.
- ✓ Address the truck driver shortage by advancing proposals that would harmonize interstate truck driver age minimums with current intrastate requirements.
- ✓ Keep transportation regulatory agendas in check so critical transportation services that manufacturers rely on are not hampered by additional red tape.
- ✓ Prevent unnecessary patchwork regulations that disrupt manufacturing supply chains.
- ✓ Continue the successes of public-private partnerships while recognizing that financing alone cannot replace public responsibilities or address all types of projects.
- ✓ Meet legislative deadlines to pass robust, long-term infrastructure legislation, including the September 2021 deadline for the next surface transportation reauthorization.