

Resolution in Support of Direct Funding to Local Governments for the Improvement and Maintenance of Local Roads in America within any Proposed Infrastructure Spending Bill

Issue: Include direct funding for roads owned and operated by local governments to address America's rapidly deteriorating transportation network and create jobs.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the president and Congress, through any proposed infrastructure spending bill, to create dedicated funding allocated directly to local governments for the improvement and maintenance of local road and bridge infrastructure in America.

Background: Every trip in this country begins and ends on a local road. Local roads are critical for moving people, providing services and delivering goods to market reliably and safely. Citizens do not distinguish between government agency ownership when it comes to their daily commutes. Counties play a critical role in the nation's transportation system: they own and operate 45 percent of all public roads. Coupled with the 33 percent of public roads owned and operated by cities and townships, local governments (counties and cities) own and operate 78 percent of this nation's road network.

NACo seeks to partner with our country's federal leadership to restore, improve and maintain our nation's local assets. Preserving our local roads today can cost ten times less than repairing failed local roads in the future. Specifically, NACo believes that new federal funding should include a component directly allocating funding to local governments to improve and maintain local infrastructure.

Goals of new federal revenues, allocated directly to local governments, for improvement, maintenance and preservation are to:

- Get federal transportation funding into the community as soon as possible to create and preserve American jobs, both in the private sector and the public sector, in America; and
- Maximize purchasing power by eliminating the burdensome additional administrative process and cost associated with multiple layers of government between funding and construction of shovel ready improvement and maintenance projects; and
- Fund the critical first and last part of each journey of goods, people, and services - local roads of America - providing certainty for businesses and laying the foundation for lasting economic growth.

This nation must commit to finding ways to support the improvement and maintenance of the existing local transportation infrastructure by prioritizing federal revenue to 78% of this country's road network now. NACo desires to be a major partner to the administration and Congress in restoring this country's local infrastructure and placing the nation back in a position of economic competitiveness in the global economy.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Sustainable and dedicated federal funding to local road improvement and maintenance, allocated directly to local governments, will significantly transform transportation funding in America and create jobs.

Sponsors: National Association of County Engineers (NACE);
California State Association of Counties (CSAC);
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