



THE **BUILD AMERICA 250 ACT**

Topline Democratic Message

- T&I Democrats are building on the historic investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) through the BUILD America 250 Act. This bill preserves the BIL's guaranteed funding levels for highways and transit while protecting programs important to local governments, investing in safety, supporting transportation workers and continuing Buy America protections and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.
- While this bill does not include every Democratic priority, this legislation will create good-paying jobs, grow the economy and provide safe, efficient transportation for people and goods across the country.

Investing in Infrastructure

- The BUILD America 250 Act makes significant investments in the nation's infrastructure, including:
 - \$580 billion in authorized and guaranteed funding.
 - \$473.8 billion in guaranteed funding via the Highway Trust Fund.
 - \$87.5 billion in guaranteed transit funding, comparable to the BIL.
 - \$64 billion in authorized funding for Amtrak and competitive rail grant programs.
 - \$45 billion in guaranteed bridge funding—a \$5 billion increase from the BIL.
 - \$12 billion for a new Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant program available to local communities of all sizes.
 - \$8.3 billion for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure through the Transportation Alternatives Program.
 - \$4 billion for the All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP), an increase of \$250 million from the BIL, to bring more transit stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Giving Local Communities More Control

- The BUILD America 250 Act provides funding and grant opportunities important to local governments, including:
 - The Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program and the new Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant program, which supports a broad array of highway, transit and rail projects in urban, suburban and rural communities.
 - \$11 billion in guaranteed funding for locally-owned bridge projects and a higher federal share for locally-owned bridges off the federal-aid highway system.
- The bill directly allocates planning funding to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), providing more authority over federal funds for urban areas.
- Local governments are eligible to apply for approximately \$30 billion in authorized rail improvement funds.

Supporting Clean Transportation and the Environment

- T&I Democrats beat back a punitive EV fee. Instead of the Republicans' proposed \$250 fee, the BUILD America 250 Act includes a \$130 fee for EVs and a \$35 fee for plug-ins. While these are not tied to inflation, they will slowly increase year-over-year until reaching \$150 and \$50, respectively, in eight years.
- The bill streamlines permitting reviews for environmentally-friendly projects, like active transportation and transit, to make it easier to build cleaner and greener infrastructure in the future.

- The bill requires states to invest \$1 billion in alternative fuel infrastructure—including EV charging—under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program.
- The bill maintains \$500 million in annual funding for PROTECT grants to make surface transportation more resilient to the changing climate.

Advancing Rail Safety and Service

- T&I Democrats fought hard to improve rail safety in the BUILD America 250 Act and achieved meaningful progress in several areas, including accelerating the phase-out of dangerous tank cars, requiring Class I railroads to join the Confidential Close Call Reporting System and requiring passenger rail operators to have assault and harassment prevention plans.
- The bill also allows states to upgrade stations and purchase rail equipment for state-supported routes by expanding eligibility in the State Transportation Block Grants program.
- T&I Democrats pushed to ensure additional rail safety provisions can be considered during the markup process and will support amendments to strengthen rail safety.