



## Rebuilding America's Infrastructure—The Time to Invest is Now

America's infrastructure forms the physical platform of the United States' \$13 trillion economy. Some of these systems are outdated, overwhelmed, and, in some places, literally falling apart. Others need continued investment for expansion and upgrades to meet increased demand. Without proper investment and attention to these systems, the nation's economic stability, potential for job growth, and global competitiveness are at risk.

### Our nation cannot reignite and sustain economic growth with an infrastructure that is breaking down.

- **Transportation:** 1/3 of major roads are in poor or mediocre condition (American Society of Civil Engineers), 25% of bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete (Federal Highway Administration), and the air traffic control system faces a multiyear overhaul.
- **Energy:** Electricity demand has increased 25% since 1990; construction of transmission facilities has decreased 30% (U.S. Department of Energy).
- **Telecommunications:** Information traveling on our nation's information superhighway is expected to increase 50-fold by 2015, requiring broadband service providers to invest more than \$100 billion in network infrastructure over the next five years (Progress & Freedom Foundation).
- **Water:** 1.7 trillion gallons are lost annually via water distribution systems costing \$2.6 billion (U.S. Geological Survey).

### Spur Private Investment

- Prospects for multiplying the job-creating impact of public investment in infrastructure with even greater private sector investment are significant.
- To unlock pent-up private sector capital investments in infrastructure, Congress and the administration should embark on a commonsense plan to remove legal, regulatory, and legislative impediments standing in the way while protecting public health and safety and improving our environment.

### Invest in the Ailing Transportation Infrastructure

- The U.S. Chamber urges Congress and the administration to:
  - Reauthorize the federal highway and transit programs, known as SAFETEA-LU, with a new federal role that supports national interests, increased investment, accountability, performance metrics, and project delivery reforms.
  - Reauthorize federal aviation programs to enable the FAA to transform our nation's aviation system.
  - Improve congested ports and aging inland waterways by reauthorizing the Water Resources Development Act.

### Modernize and Protect Energy Infrastructure

- Our energy infrastructure—power plants, pipelines, refineries, transmission lines, and the electrical grid—is being pushed to the breaking point. Efforts to rebuild and revitalize this infrastructure are frequently derailed by “Not in My Back Yard” concerns. The U.S. Chamber urges government leaders to:
  - Streamline regulatory and licensing processes to allow industry to make major investments with surety.
  - Support additional power transmission capacity across state lines by establishing federal siting authority.
  - Make timely decisions on state energy projects to avoid costly delays.
  - Provide incentives and loan guarantees to encourage research, development, and use of all energy technologies.

### **Update Telecommunications Infrastructure**

- The Chamber calls for federal policies that spur private sector investment, foster public-private partnerships, recognize the competitive nature of today's telecommunications market, and avoid overregulation.

### **Modernize Water Infrastructure**

- The pipes that supply water to families and businesses are reaching the end of their life span. Congress should lift the cap on private activity bonds for water infrastructure, strengthen the State Revolving System, and enable the leveraging of local and private investment to improve water quality and delivery.