

ACEC

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

America's roads, bridges, transit systems, rail networks and ports are the backbone of our economy. Without congressional action, federal surface transportation programs that support this critical infrastructure will expire on September 30, 2026.

KEY POINTS



Maintain Funding Commitments

A robust, long-term reauthorization bill at or above current investment levels will provide the funding stability necessary to state and local agencies for the planning and delivery of significant infrastructure projects. These federal investments facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, improve safety, and advance new economic development opportunities for our communities.



Enhance Innovation

Emerging technologies, including digital design tools, generative AI, and machine learning are transforming engineering processes by increasing productivity and enhancing precision. Proper contracting and payment structures such as lump sum contracts can support this technological integration by allowing firms more flexibility in resource allocation, optimizing project timelines, and improving cost control. Newer procurement methods like Progressive Design Build and Integrated Project Delivery provide benefits to public agencies, such as financial risk transfer, reduced administrative workload, and enhanced predictability in budgeting and project delivery.



Promote Project Success

The proliferation of federal grants to local entities has created some uncertainty around federal procurement rules. The reauthorization bill should clarify the expectation that all grantees comply with long-standing requirements that engineering firms be selected based on their qualifications, experience, and expertise, which leads to lower costs, time savings, and improved project outcomes.



Assist Local Governments

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included dozens of new programs that opened new funding opportunities for cities, towns, and municipalities to meet their unique needs. However, the administration of these grants has been slow, in many cases taking 12-18 months to execute project agreements. ACEC supports additional technical assistance and program reforms necessary to get these projects done sooner.

REQUESTS

- 1** Increased long-term funding commitments for roads and bridges, transit systems, rail and port programs.
- 2** Provisions to support public agencies utilizing lump sum contracting for engineering services.
- 3** Uniform procurement requirements for all funding recipients to comply with qualifications-based selection of engineering firms.
- 4** Mechanisms to facilitate more efficient local grant administration.