

STRATEGIC-VISION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

To Expand the
Economy, Create Jobs,
and Foster Global
Competitiveness

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Construction Industry Round Table
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**Construction Industry
Round Table**

PROLOGUE

Infrastructure is the backbone and framework for American job creation, economic expansion, long-term global competitiveness and overall quality of life. The benefits and life-styles all Americans enjoy from our vital natural resources, cultural treasures, commerce, accessibility, and mobility are closely aligned to the state of our infrastructure assets and investments. It is imperative that as a nation, we get infrastructure investment right – not only for our current economic development and employment opportunities but also for our nation’s future prosperity.

Strategic-Vision

The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) is comprised of the Chief Executive Officers and Senior Leaders of Construction Companies and Architectural-Engineering Professional Service Firms actively engaged in the design and construction of critical United States infrastructure. From this unique perspective, CIRT endorses the following objectives for a bold infrastructure plan for our country; and encourages Congress and the Administration to act thoughtfully, comprehensively, and swiftly to fill the entirety of the nation’s infrastructure needs.

Objective 1: “FUNDING PRIORITY” Organize and expand capital funding and finance methods in a manner that matches the magnitude of the infrastructure investment gap.

Strategy 1a – Authorize expanded alternative financing models including user/mileage fees, infrastructure banks, and/or infrastructure bonds in conjunction with mechanisms to incentivize private equity investment;

Strategy 1b – Support capital budgeting and necessary funding levels (gas taxes, and other levies etc.) to enhance/expand current infrastructure funds, such as the Highway Trust Fund;

Strategy 1c – Undertake a one-time repatriation of U.S. company profits held overseas at a lower, competitive tax rate to seed an infrastructure investment fund;

Strategy 1d – Expand funding and eligibility for current federal government credit assistance programs by increasing the TIFIA authorization to \$1B/year immediately, and \$2B/year within 5 years. Raise the caps on Private Activity Bonds (PABs) and expand the range of project assets (government buildings, water systems) that are eligible for PABs. Raise the authorization of WIFIA to the full authorization amount of \$50M/year and extend the program authorization timeline through 2030;

Strategy 1e – Combine current Congressional infrastructure legislative jurisdictions into a single committee responsible for prioritizing all infrastructure spending needs (across sectors) in line with clearly stated federal policy objectives;

Strategy 1f – Review and/or sunset funding mechanisms which are no longer working for modern infrastructure [such as: HUTF, SRF, annual budgeting, and OMB scoring for infrastructure].

Objective 2: “STREAMLINING” Minimize risk and cost through reducing and coordinating redundant and/or conflicting procurement, permitting, reviews, and approval methods; without undermining legitimate safety/environmental protections and safeguards.

Strategy 2a – Promote / incentivize delivery models that create efficiency in infrastructure construction;

Strategy 2b – Provide single point agency accountability for environmental permitting and document review;

Strategy 2c – Employ appropriate risk management and risk sharing to ensure that it is appropriately assigned and borne by the party best suited to manage, price, and limit the risk;

Strategy 2d - Reinforce the “Build America Bureau” mandate to streamline credit opportunities and grants so as to: provide access to the credit and grant programs in a more expedited and transparent manner.

Objective 3: “INNOVATION” Promote innovation through use of emerging technologies, methods, and material advancements.

Strategy 3a - Prioritize funding of pilot programs and/or projects that incorporate best practices and material innovations from infrastructure around the world;

Strategy 3b – Fund infrastructure research at public and private universities;

Strategy 3s – Deploy technologies/methods to collect asset usage data to feed analytics models that provide outcome probabilities to make operation and maintenance of infrastructure more efficient.

Objective 4: “PRIORITIZING PROJECTS” Select high-value infrastructure projects across all sectors/needs that correspond/match best against a well-defined set of federal policy objectives.

Strategy 4a – Define federal policy objectives such as positive economic impact, job creation, environmental sustainability, travel and commerce mobility improvements, etc.;

Strategy 4b – Develop a prioritization process and framework to evaluate projects consistently at the federal level;

Strategy 4c – Create an Infrastructure Commission to (1) prioritize the nation's top projects on a rolling 5-year basis (outside of election cycles); and (2) assign a lead agency to each project with authority to secure funding contingent on development, procurement, and delivery timeframe commitments.

Objective 5: "TALENT/WORKFORCE" Attract, develop, and retain a quality private sector workforce necessary to deliver on the essential infrastructure projects.

Strategy 5a – Fund apprenticeship programs through tax credits to employers and/or public funding of apprenticeship/craftsperson programs at the high school and junior college level;

Strategy 5b – Fund development of media campaign that promotes the value of infrastructure jobs;

Strategy 5c – Fund scholarship programs for technicians, engineers, architects, and other CM-Design professionals active in the infrastructure sector;

Strategy 5d Reauthorize and Fund the Perkins Act at \$2B per year – prioritize grant program recipients that include infrastructure training programs;

Strategy 5e - Focus on military veterans by enacting measures to allow them to participate in training programs that receive stipends for educational assistance.



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...to be a force for positive change

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