STATE OF THE INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Law) signed in November 2021 was the largest investment made in the nation's infrastructure since President Eisenhower's investment in the interstate highway system. The Infrastructure Law provides funding covering roads, bridges and rails, just to name a few. The White House currently has announced that 56,000 projects have been awarded for a cumulative amount of \$454 billion. As listed on the White House's interactive map, here are a few projects to note:

Brent Spence Bridge, Covington, KY and Cincinnati, OH - Over \$1.6 billion in grant funds will upgrade the existing Brent Spence Bridge and build a new bridge dedicated to interstate drivers to improve traffic along I-71/I-75, a critical freight route from Canada to Florida.

Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, Indianapolis, IN - The Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation will receive funding to build a multi-purpose operations and maintenance facility that will also serve as the agency's headquarters. Once completed, the project will include charging facilities and allow IndyGo to expand its bus fleet to fully implement its network redesign and meet the current and future needs of riders.

I-375 Reconnect Project, Detroit, MI - The project will realign the ramps and freeway near I-375, convert I-375 to a slowerspeed boulevard, install calming traffic measures, remove weaving and merging areas along I-375 and I-75, remove the Jefferson Avenue curve, and incorporate LED lighting in the project area. The project would also remove 15 old bridges and two stormwater run-off pump stations, rehabilitate one remaining stormwater run-off pump station, construct wider sidewalks and separated buffered cycle tracks with protected and signalized pedestrian crossings, and reconnect neighborhood streets to the boulevard in the project area.

Fredrick Douglass Tunnel Replacement, Baltimore, MD - The 150-year-old Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel will be replaced. The new Frederick Douglass Tunnel will address the largest rail bottleneck on the Northeast Corridor between Washington, D.C. and New Jersey, and create good-paying union jobs, improve reliability, lower commuting times, and enhance safety and resilience. The program is expected to generate 30,000 jobs, including approximately 20,000 direct construction jobs, most of which do not require a college degree. When the program is complete, speed and capacity improvements will help enable service growth and eliminate nearly seven hours of train delay for the average weekday. Capacity of the tunnel is expected to nearly triple, and trains traveling through the tunnel will be able to go up to 110 miles per hour versus the current 30 miles per hour.

US 69 Safe Streets & Sidewalks, Excelsior Springs, MO - The project will rebuild approximately two miles of existing streets with curb, gutter, storm drainage, and sidewalks; add approximately 2.3 miles of sidewalk along existing streets; and add approximately 2.5 miles of trail along US-69. The project also includes nine intersection improvements, with signal modifications, roundabouts, or pedestrian overpasses.

Upper Ohio Navigation Project, Allegheny and Beaver Counties, PA - The Upper Ohio Navigation Project is part of the National Economic Development (NED) plan for improving the Upper Ohio River navigation system, specifically addressing poor structural condition and inadequate lock capacity for modern navigation tows on the Emsworth and Montgomery locks and dams.

Memphis Buses and Bus Facilities, Memphis, TN - The Department of Transportation's new funding will allow the Memphis Area Transit Authority to modernize its transit system, while providing riders with more reliable and sustainable bus services in transitioning its fleet to clean electric buses and procuring charging stations for the Crosstown Corridor Connector.

Many other projects are currently being developed based on needs in the nation's ports, airports, rail and roads. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) has quoted the lack of truck parking as one of the critical issues in the trucking industry for many years. As quoted by the American Trucking Association (ATA), "A severe shortage of commercial truck parking nationwide is having dire consequences for highway safety and supply chain efficiency. When truck drivers are unable to find safe, authorized parking, they're stuck in a no-win situation—forced to either park in unsafe or illegal locations or violate federal hours-of-service rules that regulate their daily drive-time in order to search for safer, legal alternatives." ATA used data from the ATRI research in a letter to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) during February 2022, asking for release of funds from the Infrastructure Law for truck parking. The ATA has announced a few big wins in the area of truck parking during 2023 and 2024. During June 2023, two new federal grants were awarded in Louisiana and Texas for \$33 million that will create 170 new truck parking spaces. Again, in January 2024, five more new federal grants were created to increase parking capacity by 1,000 truck parking spaces in Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania, California, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

With 56,000 projects being developed, the funded projects mentioned above provide some examples of the funding available under the law. For further information, view the guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law at build.gov. On the website, you will be able to read more about the funding available and how to apply.

Go to the Infrastructure Law website, build.gov to see available funding and how to apply.

Schneider Downs and the Ohio Trucking Association are closely monitoring future big wins for the Transportation Industry and the nation.





Ohio Trucking Association

The Ohio Trucking Association is a 100-year-old full-service trade association operating in Columbus, Ohio. With over 815 total members in the trucking, logistics, warehousing and moving industries, our promise to our members is simple: the Ohio Trucking Association will work to improve operational efficiency, profitability and relevancy for all of Ohio's transportation industry. Advocacy, professional development, networking and cost savings initiatives are the keys to carrying out this promise to our members. No matter what the cause, our industry is stronger when operating as one. We encourage you to explore more about becoming involved with the Ohio Trucking Association at **www.joinota.com**.

Thomas A. Balzer, CAE President & CEO (614) 653-0290 tom@ohiotrucking.org **Bradie Berry** Vice President (614) 519-6462 bradie@ohiotrucking.org Donna Taylor Director of Communications (718) 954-0725 donna@ohiotrucking.org

Della Hole

Office Manager (614) 753-5125 della@ohiotrucking.org



Schneider Downs Transportation and Logistics Industry Group

Established in 1956, Schneider Downs has grown to be one of the largest independent public accounting and advisory firms in Columbus, Ohio; Western Pennsylvania and Metropolitan Washington, with over 500 personnel in total, including 57 shareholders and partners.

More than 25 years ago, we established the Schneider Downs Transportation and Logistics Industry Group. The group includes assurance, tax, technology and management consulting professionals who combine their individual expertise to serve our wide range of transportation and logistics clients—from local carriers to national enterprises, including: trucking, general freight, flatbed and box, TL, LTL, tank waste brokerage, bulk commodity dump, 3PL, heavy hauling/ permitted loads, moving and warehousing. The Transportation and Logistics Industry Group meets on a regular basis to review and analyze issues central to this industry. As a result, our transportation and logistics professionals possess the most current knowledge of transportation issues, regulations and trends. We work with you to seek innovative ways to reach your strategic goals.

Carl D. Scharf, CPA

Shareholder, Tax Services (614) 586-7139 cscharf@schneiderdowns.com

Matthew C. Werner, CPA Shareholder, Tax Services (412) 697-5403 mwerner@schneiderdowns.com



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655 Cooper Road Westerville, OH 43081



65 East State Street Suite 2000 Columbus, OH 43215

