



# BUILDING A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AMERICA

A VISION FOR THE 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

As a people we are bound together by our values and dedication to liberty, but we are physically bound together by our infrastructure. From the the beginning of the First Congress that authorized the first Federal lighthouses, to the Transcontinental Railroad, to the Panama Canal, to the Interstate Highway System, to the Nation’s airports, the Federal government plays a vital, historical, constitutional role in ensuring the American people and our economy are connected through infrastructure.

**A strong infrastructure means a strong America** – an America that competes globally, supports local and regional economic development, and creates jobs.

- According to recent studies, 11 percent of those employed in America - 14.2 million people - worked in infrastructure jobs in 2012.<sup>1</sup>
- Every \$1 of sustained infrastructure investment could generate approximately a \$3 return across the economy by 2030.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2013, transportation-related goods and services made up 10 percent of the Nation’s GDP.<sup>3</sup>

**But our infrastructure faces challenges.** A growing population will strain our existing infrastructure. Increased demand for air travel will strain our airports and outdated air traffic control technology. Inadequate highways, public transit, and rail systems will continue to slow the movement of goods and people. Aging locks, dams, ports, and other water infrastructure will imperil our ability to trade unless modernized.

- Our population will grow from 319 million in 2014, to 400 million by 2051.<sup>4</sup>
- The movement of freight is expected to increase by 40 percent over the next 30 years.<sup>5</sup>
- By 2030, large “post-Panamax” ships are expected to make up the majority of the world’s container ship capacity, although fewer than 10 of America’s 360 ports are currently capable of receiving them.
- By the end of the next decade, air travel demand is expected to increase from 750 million passengers annually to one billion.<sup>6</sup>
- As much as 10 percent of the cost of goods can be attributed to transportation costs; getting raw materials and products to their destinations more efficiently will help ensure the cost of goods and services are not needlessly inflated by subpar infrastructure and freight bottlenecks.

*“Our infrastructure and transportation policies have to be ready. We must be able to meet the infrastructure needs of today, but be poised to adapt to challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and tomorrow.”* -Chairman Bill Shuster

1 Brookings Institution, Beyond Shovel-Ready: The Extent and Impact of U.S. Infrastructure Jobs, 2014.

2 National Association of Manufacturers, Catching Up: Greater Focus Needed to Achieve a More Competitive Infrastructure, 2014.

3 U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2016 Pocket Guide to Transportation. 2016.

4 U.S. Census Bureau, Projections of the Size and Composition of the U.S. Population: 2014 to 2060, 2015.

5 U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT Releases 30-Year Freight Projections, 2016.

6 U.S. Department of Transportation, FAA Aerospace Forecast, Fiscal Years 2016-2036, 2016.

**November's election taught us** that the American people are ready for their elected officials to rethink the way we do things here in Washington and challenge the status quo. President Trump made a promise to the American people that he would make our Nation great again. Ensuring America's greatness means ensuring that America is competitive in the crowded global marketplace of today and tomorrow. **It means reimagining and building a 21st century infrastructure.**

Policies to address the increasing demands on the U.S. infrastructure system and provide a vision for an infrastructure that is up to the challenges of the 21st century must be guided by strong principles that will enhance our global competitiveness and grow our economy through infrastructure investments.

**As the Committee works with our Congressional colleagues, the Administration, and our non-federal partners, we will follow these principles:**

- Make smart investments, consistent with the fundamental federal role, to ensure a modern, efficient U.S. transportation infrastructure.
- Leverage resources from all levels of government and the private sector.
- Recognize, promote, and develop integrated transportation systems.
- Empower state and local governments.
- Encourage technological solutions and promote innovation.
- Reduce regulatory burdens on U.S. businesses.
- Streamline and cut federal government red tape to expedite transportation projects.

