

**DEPARTMENT:** Government & Public Affairs

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Jeff Coyle

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:** Briefing on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the City's strategies for funding opportunities created by the legislation.

**SUMMARY:**

The item provides a briefing on the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the City's planned strategies to identify projects for possible funding, coordinate with local partners, and maximize successful applications.

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The bill includes a total of \$1.2 trillion over eight years, with \$973 billion of those funds authorized between FY 2022 and FY 2026. The IIJA legislation includes the five-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs but also implements changes to existing programs and created several new programs. In total, the IIJA includes \$550 billion in new spending above the traditional surface transportation reauthorizations.

IIJA aims to rebuild roads and bridges, improve public transit systems, expand passenger rail, upgrade ports and airports, invest in broadband infrastructure, repair water systems, modernize the power sector, and improve climate resilience. The \$550 billion in new federal investments include:

- \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and other major projects
- \$73 billion to update the nation's electricity grid
- \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail
- \$65 billion for broadband internet
- \$55 billion for water infrastructure
- \$50 billion for climate resiliency projects
- \$39 billion for public transit
- \$25 billion for airports
- \$21 billion for environmental remediation projects
- \$17 billion for ports and waterways
- \$11 billion for transportation safety projects
- \$7.5 billion for low emission buses and ferries
- \$7.5 to construct EV charging stations

The Administration has created an Infrastructure Implementation Task Force and named Mitch Landrieu, former Mayor of New Orleans, as Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator for the implementation of the IIJA. The White House has been encouraging state and local governments to mirror the federal organization for the execution of the IIJA. On December 23, 2021, Mayor Nirenberg and City staff met virtually with Landrieu and his team to present the

City's proposed implementation strategy, which was well received. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Landrieu sent a letter to all state governor's requesting that they appoint state level implementation coordinators.

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Implementation Strategy**

Through the City Manager's leadership, the Government and Public Affairs Department (GPA) has launched a strategy to help maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for San Antonio infrastructure projects through coordination with City departments, community partners and strategic outreach to the state and federal governments.

The strategy will include ongoing coordination with specific City Departments. Each Department is tasked with prioritizing federal funding opportunities, identifying potential projects that may be eligible for application and assessing resources needed to pursue grants.

GPA will manage a tracking document to centralize all information about federal funding pursuits and ensure coordination with departments. An initial meeting was held in December with the department heads for each of the potential funding opportunities, and GPA staff has since facilitated individual virtual meetings with the departments and the City's federal consultants to begin the process of identifying, tracking, and pursuing opportunities to benefit San Antonio.

Additional coordination will take place at the City Manager's level. The City Manager in his Infrastructure Coordinator role will engage his counterparts from various partner organizations in San Antonio to participate in an Infrastructure Executive Roundtable that will meet regularly to discuss federal and state Notice of Funding Opportunities, determine lead organization(s) and ultimately help prepare our region to compete nationally.

Furthermore, BIL implementation includes federal and state outreach and advocacy. In coordination with the Infrastructure Roundtable, IGR Council Committee and San Antonio Congressional Delegation, the City Manager's Office and GPA will engage key federal and state officials for proactive and ongoing outreach regarding funding opportunities.

GPA will provide ongoing updates to the IGR Committee on all activities related to the BIL implementation.

### **ISSUE:**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a significant increasing in infrastructure funding nationwide. The San Antonio region must develop a structured plan to seek federal funds that will be made available through the legislation.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.