



Principles for Transportation Investment

Background »

The Trump Administration released their infrastructure plan in February, kicking off a series of discussions and debates on the country's infrastructure needs and how to best meet those needs.

The Trump plan directs half of all the funding into an incentive grant program that prioritizes leveraging funding as the main criteria. Projects will be judged on the ability of the applicant to provide the most state, local or private funding.

The League of American Bicyclists believes that government spending for infrastructure should meet criteria that fit within the performance-based framework set out by Congress in MAP-21. The League supports the following principles which will meet performance goals for improving safety, access and efficiency on our roads:

Investment Principles »

Make Safety a Priority. Over 40,000 lives were lost on our roads last year, and we can do better. The League believes that any new investment plan for infrastructure should prioritize projects that improve safety while delivering transportation benefits, such as road diets, traffic calming and innovations in safety technology. America is far from first in road safety, with Americans dying at twice the rate of Canadians per capita and four times the rate of people in the United Kingdom.

Prioritize Multimodal Projects and Planning. The League supports building complete streets that include transportation options — such as biking, walking, taking transit or driving — in the planning and design, and building of our streets. Retrofitting existing streets through road diets can reduce collisions, increase mobility and access, and improve a community's quality of life, and that is why the FHWA has embraced them as part of their innovative Every Day Counts initiative that deploys proven, yet underutilized innovations to shorten project delivery processes.

Build networks and fix network gaps. Better data now exists to allow communities to measure how well their transportation system connects people to their destinations. By identifying travel patterns across modes, planners can identify gaps in networks. Fixing gaps is a cost-efficient solution to improve traffic flow, creating new and better access to everyday destinations for people biking, walking and taking transit as well as driving.

Empower Local Control. The League of American Bicyclists has long advocated for more decision-making power for local governments, particularly for small projects. Local officials are often more aware of transportation needs and the most efficient way to provide for the transportation needs of their constituents.

Invest in Resilient Infrastructure. A 2017 report by the EPA found that expected changes to temperature and precipitation are projected to result in significant impacts to U.S. roads. The report analysis states that “proactive adaptation” that plans for a warmer climate in the design and construction of transportation infrastructure, could save the government 83 percent in future repair costs to our roads.

Please support investments in transportation infrastructure that support these principles.