

HOW THE SENATE-PASSED BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

is Advancing Economic and Public Health Opportunities for Communities of Color

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) helped the Senate pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act — a once-in-a-generation investment in our infrastructure. This legislation will help grow our economy, strengthen our economic competitiveness and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

This package includes policies that will help address economic disparities in our economy and the consequences of decades of disinvestment in America's infrastructure that have disproportionately affected communities of color. Through critical investments, this legislation will spur the creation of good-paying jobs and increase access to affordable high-speed internet, reliable public transit, clean drinking water and other resources to ensure communities of color get a fair shot at the American dream.

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EXPANDS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO MORE MICHIGANDERS

There is a stark digital divide in America. African America families are 9% less likely to have high-speed internet than their white peers, and Hispanic Americans are 15% less likely. About 35% of individuals living on Tribal lands lack access to high-speed internet.

The legislation's \$65 billion investment expands access to reliable high-speed internet with an historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment. This includes a \$2 billion investment in broadband in Tribal communities, which were hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WORKS TO ELIMINATE LEAD PIPES AND DELIVERS CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO MORE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

Across the country, pipes and treatment plants are aging and polluted drinking water is endangering public health. There are up to 10 million homes with lead service lines and pipes.

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Across the country, families of color are at the highest risk for lead exposure at home and in schools. For kids, higher exposure to lead can negatively affect academic performance, and can lead to health issues, including cardiovascular disease later in life. By some estimates, each lead service line replaced at a cost of \$5,000 per line leads to \$22,000 in health savings.

The bipartisan infrastructure package Gary voted to pass makes the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, aimed at replacing lead pipes and service lines in Michigan and across the country. The legislation would provide \$55 billion to invest in clean drinking water, including dedicated funding to address PFAS contamination. From rural towns to struggling cities, the legislation invests in water infrastructure across America, including in Tribal Nations and underserved communities that need it most.

INVESTS IN MORE PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS AND ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG OF REPAIRS

The legislation includes an historic investment in public transit – the largest federal investment in history. These resources will help expand transit options, which will reduce commute times and create more economic opportunities in communities of color. In addition, bus and transit workers are 31% African American and 19% Hispanic, compared to 12% and 18% respectively of the workforce overall.

The bipartisan infrastructure legislation will repair and upgrade aging infrastructure, modernize bus and rail fleets, make stations more accessible and bring transit service to new communities. It will replace thousands of transit vehicles, including buses, with clean, zeroemission vehicles.

CREATES A FIRST-EVER PROGRAM TO RECONNECT COMMUNITIES DIVIDED BY INEQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Significant portions of the interstate highway system were built through African American neighborhoods, destroying homes, schools, churches, and parks and causing lasting disconnection and disinvestment for residents who stayed. More broadly, historic investments in transportation infrastructure, especially highway construction, cut too many Americans off from opportunity, dividing and demolishing communities, and perpetuating economic and racial injustices. The legislation creates a first-ever program to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The program will fund planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks or other infrastructure. This is in addition to other major grant programs that could fund elements of these projects.



IMPROVES AIR QUALITY FOR CHILDREN BY INVESTING IN ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

The legislation will make a critical down payment on helping the more than 25 million children and thousands of bus drivers who breathe polluted air on their rides to and from school. Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other health problems that hurt our communities and cause students to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities. The legislation will deliver thousands of electric school buses nationwide, helping school districts across the country buy clean, American-made, zero-emission buses, replacing the yellow school bus fleet for America's children.

SAFEGUARDS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FROM CLIMATE CRISES AND EXTREME WEATHER RISKS

The legislation invests in helping communities build resilience to floods, extreme weather and natural disasters through upgrades to critical infrastructure -- like elevating buildings, roads, and bridges, hardening physical infrastructure, and winterizing the power grid.

And, it will fund state and local infrastructure improvements and emergency response strategies, such as planning grants to support development of evacuation routes or upgrading community shelters. The legislation will also make it easier for low-income families to buy flood insurance.