# HOW THE SENATE-PASSED BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

## *Will Lead to Upgrades and Create Economic Opportunities for Rural Communities*

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) helped the Senate pass the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* — a once-in-a-generation investment in Michigan's and America's infrastructure. These investments will support rural and Tribal communities, help grow our economy and create good- paying jobs.

This bipartisan legislation will drastically expand high-speed internet coverage, rebuild crumbling infrastructure like roads and bridges, replace lead pipes and service lines and build infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and extreme weather events.

Investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill to strengthen and create jobs in rural communities include:

## Provide High-Speed Internet to Michiganders

More than 35 percent of rural Americans and Tribal communities lack wired access to high-speed internet. It is vital for Michiganders to do their jobs, to accelerate precision agriculture, to participate equally in school learning and health care, and to stay connected. The bipartisan infrastructure bill invests $65 billion, including through USDA rural broadband programs, to make high-speed internet available to more Americans, bring down high-speed internet prices and provide technical assistance to communities seeking to expand broadband.

Michigan would receive a minimum of $100 million to help provide high-speed internet coverage across the state, including access to the at least 398,000 Michiganders who currently lack it. Additionally, nearly 2.5 million or 25% of people in Michigan would be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit to help low-income families afford internet access.

## Ensure Clean Drinking Water

Rural and tribal communities in Michigan and across the country have pipes and treatment plants that are aging. The bipartisan infrastructure bill invests $55 billion in clean drinking water. It will work to replace lead pipes and deliver more clean drinking water, benefiting Michigan households, schools, and child care centers.

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## Fix Rural Roads and Bridges

As part of a $110 billion investment to repair America's crumbling infrastructure, the bipartisan infrastructure bill invests in fixing 10,000 off-system bridges, many in rural areas, that provide critical linkages for communities to economic opportunity.

In Michigan, roughly 1,219 bridges and over 7,300 miles of highway are in "poor condition." On average, each driver in Michigan pays $644 annually in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. Under this bill, based on formula funding alone, Michigan would receive an estimated $7.3 billion for federal-aid highway programs and $563 million for bridge replacement and repairs over five years. Michigan would also be eligible to compete for Bridge Investment Program grants to help communities, including in rural areas, address significant bridge repair needs.

## Strengthen Resilience

Last year, the United States faced 22 extreme weather and climate-related disaster events with losses over $1 billion – a cumulative price tag of nearly $100 billion. These included damaging floods and other extreme weather across rural America. As part of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, Gary secured $500 million for a new program that could be used by local communities in Michigan and across the nation to carry out mitigation projects that reduce natural disaster risk, including extreme flooding, shoreline erosion and rising water levels.

These threats have put homes, small businesses, property, and communities at risk, and caused millions of dollars in damages. Gary authored the *Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act*, which was signed into law earlier this year, to create this new program. The funding will help states establish revolving loan funds to provide low-interest loans to local communities for disaster mitigation projects. In addition, Gary also helped secure $1 billion for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects.

## Build and Upgrade Airports, Ports, and Waterways in Rural America

While the United States pioneered the modern aviation industry, today, U.S. airports lag far behind and many rural airports need upgrades. Only 9 percent of roads outside ports are in good or very good condition and the American Society of Civil Engineers gives America's Inland Waterways infrastructure a D+. The bipartisan infrastructure bill Gary helped pass meets this challenge by investing $16.3 billion in port infrastructure and $25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance

backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies. Modern, resilient, and sustainable port, airport, and freight infrastructure will help American farmers and ranchers sell their goods around the nation and world by removing bottlenecks and expediting commerce and reduce the environmental impact on neighboring communities.

## Supporting Rural and Tribal Community Transportation Improvements

The bipartisan infrastructure bill includes the bipartisan *ROUTES Act*, which Gary helped introduce to support rural communities, Native American tribes and underserved communities in rural areas better compete for federal transportation resources.

## Build Electric Transmission Infrastructure in Rural America

Power outages in Michigan and across the U.S. can have a significant impact on the U.S. economy and local communities. At times, rural Michiganders can be without power for days during these outages. The bipartisan infrastructure bill meets this challenge by making the single largest investment in transmission in American history.  It creates a Grid Development Authority at the Department of Energy to enable a national, clean energy power grid and funds to support activities that reduce the impacts to the electric grid and communities from extreme weather and natural disasters. It deploys long distance, high voltage transmission to enhance reliability and resilience, lower costs, and integrate the highest value clean energy resources. It invests in research and development for advanced transmission and electricity distribution technologies and smart grid technologies that deliver flexibility and resilience. And, it invests more than $22 billion in demonstration projects and research hubs for next generation technologies like advanced nuclear reactors, carbon capture for industrial plants and green hydrogen.