



American Road
& Transportation
Builders Association

2020 Presidential Candidates on Transportation

Incumbent Candidate: President Donald J. Trump

Party: Republican

Announced Infrastructure Plan: [Building a Stronger America](#), Feb. 12, 2018

Notable Components of Plan:

- \$200 billion in federal investment to spur \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending across all types of infrastructure (highways, transit, brownfields, rail, water)
- Contains ARTBA-supported regulatory reforms, like streamlining of requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and “One Federal Decision”
- Prioritizes rural infrastructure

On Funding:

- Plan relies heavily on state, local and private sector investment

Additional Information:

- President Trump urged Congress to pass S. 2302, America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, during his 2020 State of the Union Address, which is the Senate’s 5-year, \$287 billion highway reauthorization bill
- FY2021 budget request outlines a 10-year, \$810 billion surface transportation bill, also includes \$190 billion in “additional infrastructure investment”
- Pledges in budget to work with Congress to find revenue

Candidate: Former Vice President Joe Biden

Party: Democrat

Infrastructure Plan: [The Biden Plan to Invest in Middle Class Competitiveness](#), Nov. 14, 2019

Notable Components of Plan:

- \$1.3 trillion plan invests \$50 billion in roads in the first year, with some federal funds going directly to cities and towns
- Increase U.S. DOT investment in Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Double funding for Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) administered by U.S. DOT
- Broad notion of infrastructure with focus on labor, community development, manufacturing

On Funding:

- Plan would raise corporate tax rate and close tax loopholes
- “The Highway Trust Fund has for far too long been grossly underfunded. Biden will ensure new revenues are secured to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund in order to build roads, bridges, and public transportation projects.”

Additional Information:

- As a U.S. senator, Biden was against an increase in the gas tax in 1990, but supported an increase in 1993. He supported the redirection of gas tax revenues to the Highway Trust Fund in 1997.

Candidate: U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont

Party: Democrat (serves in Senate as an independent)

Infrastructure Plan: [Rebuild America Act](#) Legislation introduced in 2015 and referenced on campaign website

Notable Components of Plan:

- Infrastructure plan framed in the context of the Green New Deal
- \$1 trillion investment over 5 years
- \$75 billion for Highway Trust Fund
- \$636 billion for making to promote resiliency in roads, bridges and water infrastructure

On Funding:

- Relies on ending subsidies and increasing taxes on industries like fossil fuels
- Previously called gas tax “regressive” and suggested suspending the federal gas tax during 2008

Additional Information:

- As a member of the House of Representatives, Sanders supported an increase in the gas tax in 1993, with the caveat that he only supported it because it was part of a larger “progressive tax package.” He voted against 1997 legislation that redirected revenues to the Highway Trust Fund.

Key 2020 Election Dates:

March 10: Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Washington state

March 17: Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Ohio

March 24: Georgia

Primaries continue in April, May and June

July 13-16: Democratic National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Aug. 24-27: Republican National Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina

Nov. 3: Election Day