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

Tweets from @realDonaldTrump

"I urge the Senate and House to pass the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act with additional funding for PPP, Hospitals, and Testing. After I sign this Bill, we will begin discussions on the next Legislative Initiative with fiscal relief...

...to State/Local Governments for lost revenues from COVID 19, much needed Infrastructure Investments for Bridges, Tunnels, Broadband, Tax Incentives for Restaurants, Entertainment, Sports, and Payroll Tax Cuts to increase Economic Growth."
--April 21

"Governors should let roads and highway construction begin before heavy traffic starts, which will be soon. Some Governors never stopped, which proved to be very smart. They built and fixed roads during long no traffic periods. Also, saved big dollars!"
--May 5
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.

Key 2020 Election Dates:

Aug. 17-20: Democratic National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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

Nov. 3: Election Day