**RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO** 

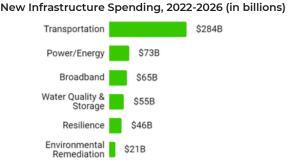
## COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER NEW ORLEANS

# The Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

## What is the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA)?

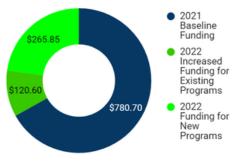
a.k.a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- \$550 billion in new federal spending on U.S. infrastructure over the next five years.
- Money will be spent on transportation, high-speed internet, clean water, the energy grid, climate resilience, and many other areas.



## Why is IIJA Important for New Orleans?

The infrastructure law means that Louisiana gets more money
every year for projects to improve roads, bridges, and public transit.



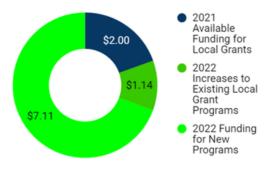
Annual Federal Funding for Road and Bridge Projects in Louisiana: 2021 vs 2022 (in millions)

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- In 2021, Louisiana got \$781 million in federal money for **road and bridge programs**. In 2022, that will go up to \$1,167 million, about a **50% increase**.
- Some of this money goes to existing programs for road and bridge construction. Many of those existing programs have new rules that cover a larger range of projects (such as retrofitting infrastructure for storm resilience.)
- Most of the new money goes into new programs for bridge repairs, electric vehicle infrastructure, and climate resilience.

The law creates new competitive grants\* for local governments.

\*the City can apply to receive the funds, but they're not guaranteed.



Competitive Grant Funding Available to Local Governments: 2021 vs 2022 (in billions)

- In the past, most federal transportation money went to states, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and transit agencies.
- The new infrastructure law changes that: local governments will have the chance to apply directly for more than \$10 billion each year in competitive grant opportunities.
- Many of these competitive grants address priorities important for New Orleans, including hazard mitigation, road and sidewalk repairs, complete streets, and climate change resilience.

#### **PROTECT Program**

competitive grants to help States and local agencies improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure. PROTECT grants include resilience improvement grants, community resilience and evacuation route grants, and at-risk coastal infrastructure grants.

#### **Reconnecting Communities Pilot**

Restore community connectivity by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.

#### **Healthy Streets Program**

"Install cool and/or **porous pavements** or to **expand tree cover** with the goal of reducing urban heat centers and improving air quality"

#### Safe Streets and Roads for All

grants to support local projects to **prevent transportation-related death** and serious injury on roads and streets Most of these programs are competitive grants - local governments, including New Orleans, need to apply for these funds.

#### Active Transportation Investment Infrastructure Program

New competitive grant program for construction of projects to "provide safe and connected transportation facilities in an **active transportation network** or active transportation spine."

#### National EV Charging Infrastructure

Strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability

### How will decisions be made?

#### Who are the decisionmakers?

- Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Infrastructure, Ramsey Green will set priorities, in coordination with City Department heads and New Orleans City Council members.
- City Council has to approve the allocation of the funds after grants have been awarded

#### An Opportunity for Equity

#### How do I get involved?

- Tell your councilmember what issues are important to you by calling, sending an email, or attending an IIJA Task Force Meeting (learn more at council.nola.gov/meetings).
- 2. Tell your Neighborhood Liaison what issues are important to you by calling or emailing.
- 3. Sign up to receive updates and calls to action at cbno.org/justrecovery.

The last two years' crises have shined a spotlight on the inequities in New Orleans, and across the nation. New Orleans has an opportunity to invest recovery money in our hardest-hit communities, to build an equitable future. Learn more at cbno.org/justrecovery

#### Learn more & Get Involved

Visit **cbno.org/justrecovery** to learn more about the City's approach to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other sources of Federal recovery funds; and find out how you can make your voice heard.

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