



FED-PP-01: INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

PROPOSED POLICY: SUPPORT federal legislation that would create a National Infrastructure Bank where infrastructure is backed by private investment (bonds, etc.).

BACKGROUND: The recent scoring of infrastructure by the American Society of Civil Engineers for the United States was dismal. Each of us in county government is aware of the need for funding not just for roads and bridges but for broadband, schools, sea level rise, affordable housing, transit, etc. The funding proposed by Biden's proposed infrastructure bill is far less than the trillions of dollars estimated by the ASCE to begin to address this problem. At the same time, we are faced with a soaring national deficit. HR 3339 proposes a National Infrastructure Bank based on the model used by Washington & Hamilton, Adams, Lincoln and Roosevelt - funding of infrastructure backed by private investment (bonds, etc.) and having a net positive effect on the federal budget. This proposed bank would provide up to five trillion dollars to cities, counties, regions and states to address these issues and which would be paid back at an interest rate less than the rate of inflation. There would be the ability to bundle projects and a portion of the money would also be put towards a grant program for the most challenged communities. A resolution in support of this bill was based at the last NACO conference.

Our counties are not provided adequate resources by the state to address the needs for maintenance of roads, of schools, or to address the growing issues with sea level rise and extreme weather events and effects on stormwater systems, wastewater treatment and water reclamation facilities. This problem is becoming dire in many counties, and they are not able to maintain the assets they have invested in.

ANALYSIS: This legislation would provide counties with infrastructure funding for public transportation, roads/bridges, broadband, water and wastewater facilities. The proposed bank would provide up to an estimated \$5 trillion to cities, counties, regions, and states to address infrastructure needs to be paid back at an interest rate less than the rate of inflation. There would be the ability to bundle projects, and a portion of the money would also be put towards a grant program for the most challenged communities. Our county is between \$600M and \$700M behind on just road maintenance. We are able to budget, in a best-case scenario, \$6M a year. This is affecting property values, public safety, and has, in some cases, become an equity issue for the outlying communities. In addition, we estimate a cost of \$40M to provide broadband to all our citizens. The past year has shown that the lack of broadband is costing our community in many ways. We struggle to provide adequate public transportation. We have thousands of homes that need to be connected to wastewater systems to protect our groundwater. Many of these issues cross county borders since small towns in neighboring counties are seen as "bedroom communities" and thousands of people commute into Alachua



County for jobs. Our county signed a resolution of the support for this bill and the North Central Florida Planning Council also unanimously signed a resolution of support.

FISCAL IMPACT: Should FAC support this bill and assist in having our legislators support this bill the fiscal impact would be positive for the state and for our counties should it pass the House and a bill is taken up by the Senate. Whether Biden's Infrastructure plan fails or not, this non-partisan grassroots bill would be ready to provide solutions that that bill does not address - in fact much of the proposed funding in Biden's Infrastructure bill in a reallocation of funding - not new dollars.

SUBMITTING COUNTY: Alachua

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: FED

BOARD SUPPORT: Yes

UNFUNDED MANDATE: No

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: N/A