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A newsletter of, by, and for working people

OCTOBER 2022



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS FOR WISCONSIN

Dear Reader,

Late last year, President Biden and his allies in Congress passed the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Since then, Governor Tony Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes have been working hard to implement the law here in Wisconsin, winning overwhelming bipartisan support from the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance for their plan to invest \$282.9 million in our state's infrastructure.

The plan will create jobs and improve transportation, water, and high-speed internet infrastructure in every region of the state.

But this is about so much more than roads and bridges—it's about **creating jobs** for Wisconsinites, **increasing American competitiveness** on the global stage, **safeguarding our neighborhoods** against natural disasters, and **guaranteeing broadband internet access and clean water** for all.

Governor Evers has worked with our elected leaders, government officials, unions, and community groups to make sure the resources go towards Wisconsin's most critical needs.

So, what's in the Act? And how will it help working Wisconsinites like us?

We'll answer these questions and more in this edition of *In Union*. If there's anything we missed or if you have questions about the new infrastructure investments, we want to hear from you. Email us at info@inunionusa.com!

Sincerely,
The *In Union* Team



Gov. Evers' plan to invest \$282.9 million in Wisconsin's infrastructure approved

QUICK HITS

Infrastructure in WI by the Numbers



72,100
jobs created since 2021¹



\$841 MILLION
will be used to guarantee clean water access for all Wisconsinites²



2,000
miles of highway will be repaired³



650,000
Wisconsinites will have new broadband internet access⁴

SOURCES: 1. White House Fact Sheet, accessed 10/3/2022. 2. White House Fact Sheet, accessed 10/3/2022. 3. WMTV, 5/17/2022. 4. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 5/27/2022.

HOW IS IT PAID FOR?

- No new taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 per year⁵
- Redirecting unused money from the COVID-19 relief bill⁶
- No increases in gas taxes or fees for electric vehicles⁷

SOURCES: 5. The Guardian, 10/27/2021. 6. CNN, 11/15/2021. 7. CNN, 11/15/2021.

In Union USA Action is a project supported by a group of unions. We'll provide you with research on issues that affect working people's lives, examine the records of elected officials on those issues, and give you ways to hold your elected representatives accountable. In Union is not affiliated with, does not take contributions from, and does not make contributions to any candidates or political parties. For more information, please visit www.inunionusa.com.

Progress from the Tony Evers & Mandela Barnes Administration on Infrastructure and Jobs

The Evers-Barnes Administration has been working closely with the Department of Transportation and local partners throughout the state to make sure that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is going to the most important projects in Wisconsin.

- Since 2019, the Evers-Barnes Administration has improved more than 4,600 miles of highway and roads
- Gov. Evers and Lt. Gov. Barnes have worked with the Department of Transportation to repair nearly 1,500 bridges since the start of their term
- Although every Republican in Wisconsin's congressional delegation voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Evers-Barnes Administration successfully maneuvered around Republican obstruction in the state legislature to win bipartisan approval of their implementation plan from the Joint Committee on Finance
- So far, the Administration has allocated about \$57.5 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for transportation projects and local road improvements across Wisconsin

SOURCES: WEAU News, 6/7/2022; Office of Governor Tony Evers, 6/7/2022; Urban Milwaukee, 7/15/2022; WQOW, 4/27/2022; HR 3684, Senate Vote #314, 8/10/2021, 117th Congress, 1st Session, senate.gov; HR 3684, House Roll Call #370, 11/5/2021, 117th Congress, 1st Session, clerk.house.gov.



"After years of neglect, we have improved more than 1,700 miles of roads and nearly 1,300 bridges. This federal spending plan builds upon the transportation investments made in my previous two budgets so we can fix the roads and provide Wisconsinites the transportation system they need and deserve."

– Governor Tony Evers, 4/27/2022

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD FOCUS ON?

Let us know what issues are most important in your community.
Send a note to: info@inunionusa.com

www.inunionusa.com info@inunionusa.com [@InUnionUSA](https://www.facebook.com/InUnionUSA)

How the Evers-Barnes Administration is Investing in Wisconsin's Infrastructure

The Administration is making historic investments in roads, bridges, airports, and state parks, extending broadband internet access, expanding public transportation, and more.

Wisconsin's infrastructure has been crumbling into disrepair for decades, but things are about to change thanks to these new investments. Over the next five years, these investments will get folks back to work on essential projects. The map to the right highlights some of these investments in Wisconsin.



\$1B from infrastructure plan speeds up work to restore polluted sites across Wisconsin, Great Lakes

Cleaning Up Toxic Waste

The Infrastructure Act provides funds to clean up toxic materials, including at the Penta Wood Products site in Burnett County, which was abandoned in 1992 but left behind high levels of the dangerous chemical pentachlorophenol, or PCP, in the surrounding soil and water. With this funding, we can finish cleaning up these hazardous chemicals and prevent further environmental damage to the area.¹

Expanding Broadband Internet Access in Every Corner of the State

With this funding, we can expand internet access to the approximately 650,000 Wisconsinites who currently lack it, and 1,246,000 people in Wisconsin will be eligible for benefits to help them pay for broadband.²



“It is the largest federal investment in the country’s infrastructure for decades and is seen as a major domestic win for the US president.”

Improving and Expanding Public Transportation

Millions of people rely on public transportation to get around, but these essential services have lacked investment for years. This bill will bring much-needed funding to various public transit agencies across the state—including in Madison, where a new fleet of 46 electric buses will support commuters and decrease pollution.³

Fixing Our Dilapidated Bridges

Wisconsin has at least 979 structurally deficient bridges to fix. This federal funding will help repair and rebuild our bridges—like in Ashland and Bayfield Counties, which together have at least 18 bridges in poor condition.⁴



Wisconsin Has 176,000 Lead Pipes. The Infrastructure Bill Will Help Take Them Out.

Restoring Roads Across Wisconsin

Wisconsin has at least 2,000 miles of highway in poor condition, costing drivers an average of \$547 per year in car repairs and extra fuel costs. With this funding, we can fix our roads to make them safe for everyone, from highways to county forests. For example, Marinette County will receive funds to improve and maintain its 234 miles of county forest roads.⁵

Ensuring Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Clean and safe drinking water should be a right guaranteed to everyone—but that’s not a reality right now. Milwaukee County alone has an estimated 70,000 remaining lead pipelines. The Infrastructure Act is providing funds to revitalize Wisconsin’s ailing water systems and get rid of the chemicals contaminating our water, so that every neighborhood has access to clean water.⁶



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES SPENT?

We need to make sure the politicians are focused on the right priorities. To hold them accountable and let them know what you think, email us at info@inunionusa.com.



Dig deeper into these investments:

1. *The American Independent*, 5/13/2022. 2. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 5/27/2022; White House Fact Sheet, accessed 6/14/2022. 3. Census Bureau, 4/1/2021; *The Hill*, 2/12/2022; *The American Independent*, 5/24/2022. 4. WMTV, 5/17/2022; *Ashland Daily Press*, 4/23/2022. 5. WMTV, 4/12/2021; WisPolitics, 3/10/2022; WMTV, 5/17/2022; Fox 11 News, 6/7/2022. 6. Wisconsin Watch, 9/9/2021; Wisconsin Public Radio, 12/2/2021.