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A newsletter of, by, and for working people

MARCH 2022



## NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Reader,

Recently, President Biden signed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law!

**This Act is the biggest investment in American infrastructure in almost a century**, and as anyone driving on a major highway in Pennsylvania knows, it's long overdue.

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

As the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* said, **"The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is an opportunity for Pennsylvania and the nation to accomplish big things.** It's time to stop arguing and get to work on it."

**So, what's in the Act? And how will it help working Pennsylvanians 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](mailto:info@inunionusa.com)!

Sincerely,  
The *In Union* Team

**BBC  
NEWS**

**"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."**

11/6/21

### QUICK HITS

## Infrastructure in PA by the Numbers



**50,000**  
jobs will be created  
by 2031<sup>1</sup>



**\$240 MILLION**  
will be used to guarantee clean  
water access for all Pennsylvanians<sup>2</sup>



**7,540**  
miles of road  
will be repaired<sup>3</sup>



**394,000**  
Pennsylvanians will have new  
broadband internet access<sup>4</sup>

SOURCES: 1. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 11/14/21; 2. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 12/6/21; 3. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11/9/21; 4. *CBS 21 News*, 11/15/21.

### HOW IS IT PAID FOR?

- No new taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 per year<sup>5</sup>
- Redirecting unused money from the COVID-19 relief bill<sup>6</sup>
- No increases in gas taxes or fees for electric vehicles<sup>7</sup>

SOURCES: 5. *The Guardian*, 10/27/21; 6. *CNN*, 11/15/21; 7. *CNN*, 11/15/21.

*In Union* 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](http://www.inunionusa.com).

## Let's Hold the Politicians Accountable

President Biden and his allies in Congress have gotten a lot done in the last year—from the American Rescue Plan to the new bipartisan infrastructure law.

But we need to make sure the resources from these bills are focused on our priorities. That's why we want to hear from you—so we can hold our elected leaders accountable.

### Voices From Across Pennsylvania on What They'd Like to See From Our Political Leaders

**Eileen C., South Park**

Eileen was pleased about the passage of the new infrastructure bill, and she hopes the bill will bring some much-needed help to her community. She's particularly interested in improvements to roads, water lines, and the local park.

**Steve F., Easton**

Steve is a local teacher and is concerned with the aging infrastructure around Easton. He'd like to see a city-to-city commuter rail line and more done to protect the environment.

**Norm M., New Eagle**

Norm has lived in his community for over 60 years. Recently, he's been frustrated by the poor state of the electrical grid. There have been constant power outages, but not caused by weather. He'd like to see better energy infrastructure.

**Tanner S., Bethlehem**

Tanner thinks the biggest issue is the lack of infrastructure investments in the U.S. He believes the country is missing out on job creation opportunities, and he'd like to see more living-wage jobs locally.

### How did your elected officials vote on the infrastructure bill?

Member	District/Region	Party	Vote
Sen. Bob Casey	Statewide	D	Yea
Sen. Pat Toomey	Statewide	R	Nay
Rep. Susan Wild	PA-07 (Lehigh Valley)	D	Yea
Rep. John Joyce	PA-13 (West & Southwest)	R	Nay
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler	PA-14 (Southwest)	R	Nay
Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson	PA-15 (West & Northwest)	R	Nay
Rep. Mike Kelly	PA-16 (Northwest)	R	Nay
Rep. Conor Lamb	PA-17 (Southwest)	D	Yea
Rep. Mike Doyle	PA-18 (Southwest)	D	Yea

To find your representative and their vote, visit  
[clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021370](https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021370)

SOURCES: H.R. 3684, Senate Vote #314, 8/10/21, 117th Congress, 1st Session, [senate.gov](https://senate.gov); H.R. 3684, House Roll Call #370, 11/5/21, 117th Congress, 1st Session, [clerk.house.gov](https://clerk.house.gov)

**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](mailto:info@inunionusa.com)

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# What’s the Infrastructure Act Bringing to Pennsylvania?

Investments in roads, bridges, and airports, extended broadband internet access, expanded public transportation, and more.

Pennsylvania’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 Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“The bill was, however, lauded by the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, with the group saying the investment could drive innovation and help fund the transportation of the future.”

11/6/21

## Expanding Broadband Internet Access in Every Corner of the State

Internet access is necessary to work, learn, get health care, and stay connected with loved ones. With this funding, we can expand internet access to nearly 400,000 residents and make 2.9 million low-income families eligible for benefits to help them pay for broadband.<sup>1</sup>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Of the \$70 million designated for Pennsylvania’s airports, Pittsburgh International Airport is expected to receive \$11 million. Just under a dozen regional and municipal airports will see smaller amounts.”

12/16/21

## 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. For example, in rural Jefferson County, the water in some schools contained dangerous levels of lead, up to 25 times the state limit. This funding will allow us to eliminate lead pipes and ensure that every family in every neighborhood across Pennsylvania has access to clean water.<sup>2</sup>

## 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. Amtrak is expanding some intercity routes, including plans to connect Scranton, Reading, and Allentown to New York City.<sup>5</sup>

## THE MORNING CALL

“Roads, bridges and drainage systems across the Lehigh Valley are slated to get much-needed upgrades through a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill.”

11/8/21

## Reclaiming Abandoned Mines

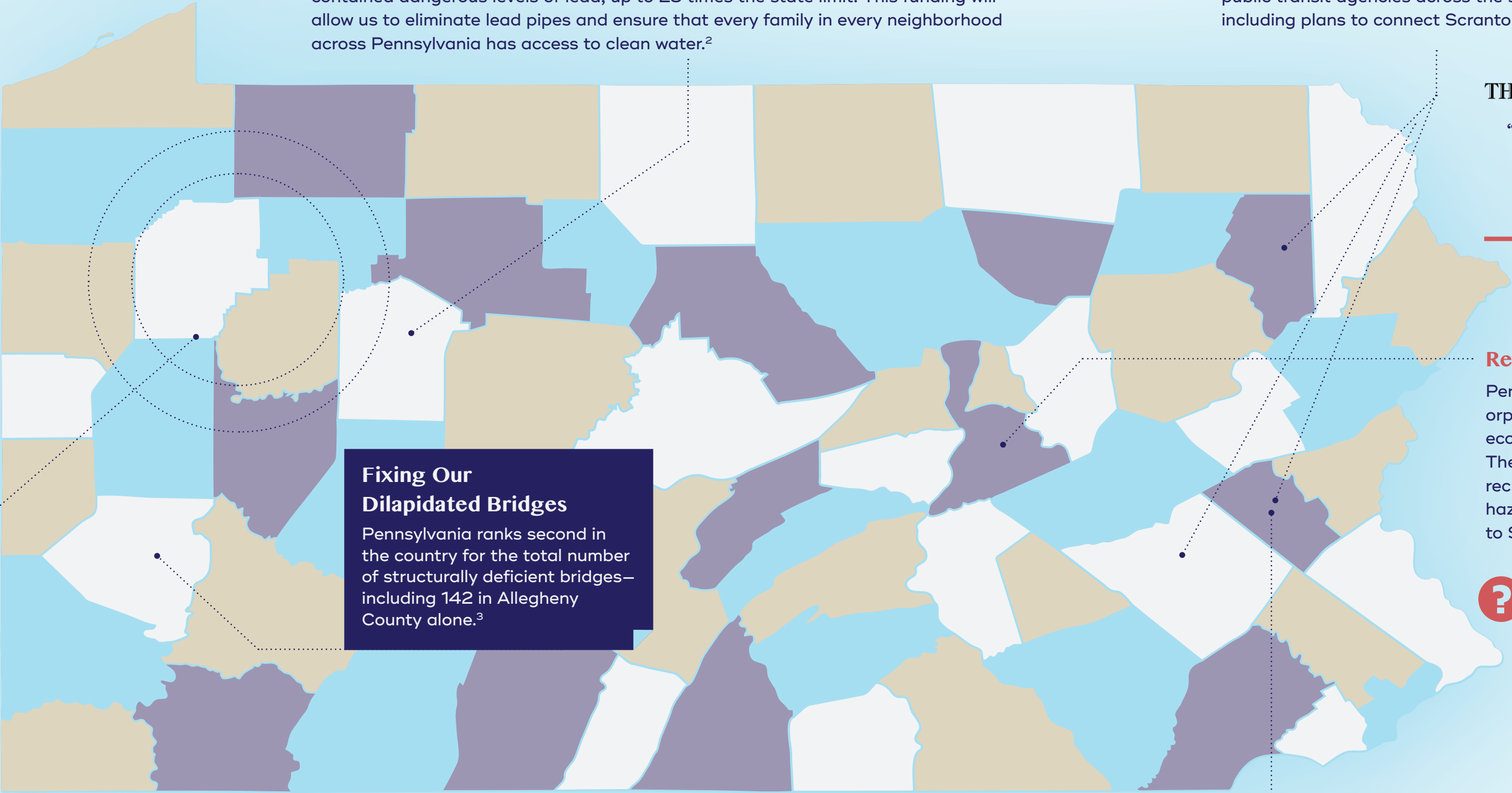
Pennsylvania has thousands of abandoned mines and orphaned oil wells, posing severe health risks and hindering economic development in 43 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties. The Infrastructure Act will employ people to plug wells and reclaim mining areas, eliminating health and environmental hazards across Pennsylvania—from Scranton to Shamokin to Smithdale.<sup>6</sup>

## 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](mailto:info@inunionusa.com).

## Dig Deeper into these investments:

- 1. Pocono Record, 10/20/21; 2. Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/6/21; Pennsylvania Capital-Star, 11/15/21; Pennsylvania Capital-Star, 1/12/20;
- 3. Pocono Record, 10/20/21; 4. Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/9/21; Daily American, 3/15/21; 5. Centre Daily Times, 11/16/21;
- 6. minemaps.psu.edu, accessed 11/22/21; Pocono Record, 10/20/21.



## Repairing Highways Across Pennsylvania

Our state has more than 7,540 miles of highway in poor condition, and drivers pay more than \$600 a year making car repairs due to our bad roads. We can repair our roads to make them safer for everyone and ease congestion on crowded highways like Route 22 in the Lehigh Valley with this funding.<sup>4</sup>