

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **NAPA Statement on Passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021**

*Bipartisan bill a positive development for America's highways and asphalt pavement industry.*

GREENBELT, MD—On August 10, the United States Senate forged a meaningful investment in the American economy, ensuring that roads, highways, and bridges continue to carry people and commerce safely and smoothly for years to come. With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the nation's road network will receive a necessary increase of \$110 billion over five years, in addition to baseline expenditures.

"This bipartisan bill represents a giant step forward in bringing greater access and mobility to the American public, brings our highways and roads to good condition, sparks ongoing innovation in the asphalt pavement industry, and secures good-paying jobs for hundreds of thousands of American workers, not to mention improves their safety while on the job," said Audrey Copeland, Ph.D., P.E., NAPA's President and CEO.

In addition to predictable funding for paving projects, the bill successfully advances several of NAPA's priorities, as stated in its December 2020 "[Build Back Better with Asphalt](#)" package to the incoming Biden administration:

- Reauthorization of the Accelerated Implementation and Deployment of Pavement Technologies (AID-PT) program to continue advancing the latest innovations, best practices, and technologies for constructing and maintaining high-quality, long-lasting pavements valued at \$30 million.
- Increased federal contributions to safety contingency funds to improve work zone safety, protecting workers and motorists from injury and fatalities during roadway construction projects using innovative contracting methods that enhance work zone safety.
- Absence of pavement type selection mandates, maintaining neutrality on highway pavement materials issues, leaving it to individual state experts to determine the most cost-effective and efficient pavement type for each project.

Moreover, the bill provides an exemption from Buy America, ensuring that U.S.-based pavement material producers can access high-quality asphalt binders and aggregates, safeguarding state-funded projects without supply chain disruptions or unnecessary additional costs to taxpayers.

“NAPA thanks the President and the Senate, especially those negotiating in good faith on behalf of the American people to pass a bipartisan infrastructure funding bill in a timely manner, enabling much-needed construction and maintenance for America’s critical highways, roads, and bridges,” said James Winford, NAPA 2020-21 Chairman. NAPA now calls upon members of the House to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to provide America with the meaningful investment that supports the nation’s continued economic growth and mobility.

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*The National Asphalt Pavement Association is the only trade association that exclusively represents the interests of the asphalt pavement material producer/contractor on the national level with Congress, government agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities. The association provides technical, educational, and marketing materials and information to its members; supplies product information to users and specifiers of paving materials; and conducts training courses. The association, which counts more than 1,200 companies as its members, was founded in 1955.*