

BUILD BACK BETTER ALASKA

Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework (BIF)

Officially titled the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the BIF authorizes \$550 billion in new spending over the next 10 years on three major categories: transportation; energy, the environment, and climate; and broadband. This bill became law on November 15, 2021.

The BIF is estimated to add over 700,000 good-paying jobs annually over the next decade and represents the largest ever investment to combat climate change. See some of the ways the BIF will impact Alaska below:

1. Transportation Infrastructure
 - a. \$3.5 billion to build, repair, and maintain Alaska **roads and highways**
 - b. \$225 million to address 140 Alaska **bridges** deemed “structurally deficient”
 - c. A new \$1 billion national program to fund **essential ferry service** supporting rural communities, including funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System. Alaska will also receive \$73 million to construct and operate ferry boats and terminals
 - d. \$5 billion is allocated nationally to assist **railways** with critical capital projects and safety improvements, with the Alaska Railroad being an eligible recipient
 - e. Increases **Port** Infrastructure Development Grant funding by \$2.25 billion and provides an additional \$250 million for remote and subsistence **harbor** construction
 - f. Funding for **airports**, including set-asides for small and nonhub airports
2. Energy, Environment, and Climate
 - a. Provides a \$1 billion set aside to improve **energy access, resiliency, and safety** in rural areas nationally
 - b. Energy efficiency measures are given \$6 billion across the bill, including \$3.5 billion for the Weatherization Assistance Program
 - c. Allocates \$180 million for **water and wastewater** projects in Alaska
 - d. \$216 million nationally for **Tribal climate resilience** projects, including \$130 million for **community relocation**
3. Broadband
 - a. Alaska will receive at least \$100 million to deploy **broadband** with additional carve-outs for high-cost areas
 - b. An additional \$2 billion is added to the **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant** Program, to which Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations are eligible for awards