

★ ★ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Communities of Color

INVESTS IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) contains billions of dollars in funding to rebuild, expand and protect Pennsylvania's infrastructure after decades of underinvestment.
- ★ Over five years, the IIJA will invest \$3.2 billion in public transportation systems across Pennsylvania, whose ridership is predominantly women and people of color, in order to improve and expand service operations.
- ★ The IIJA has a minimum of \$100 million dollars in funding to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, regardless of zip code, can access reliable, high-speed internet. It also includes \$14.2 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which gives low-income Pennsylvanians up to \$30 every month to pay for high-speed internet. Both programs will work to close the racial digital divide in the Commonwealth.
- ★ The IIJA includes \$1 billion for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, which will fund projects across the nation that help redress the harm caused by previous infrastructure projects to communities of color.
- ★ We know that the extreme weather caused by climate change tends to hit communities of color the hardest. The IIJA includes several provisions to help safeguard these communities, including funding for climate-resilient-infrastructure and enhanced emergency response strategies.

PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- ★ It is unacceptable that there are communities with high levels of lead in their drinking water supply. The IIJA will invest \$1.4 billion over the next five years into Pennsylvania's water systems, starting with \$87 million targeted money for removing and replacing lead pipes in 2022.
- ★ Black and Latino children in Pennsylvania experience higher rates of asthma than white children do. The IIJA includes \$2.5 billion nationwide for electric school buses that will reduce children's exposure to exhaust.
- ★ Similarly, the IIJA will invest billions of dollars in Pennsylvania to promote lower-emission transportation methods. This includes at least \$171 million for Pennsylvania to build electric vehicle chargers that will help us transition away from high-emission vehicles. Public transportation funding will also help reduce the total number of cars on the road.
- ★ In Pennsylvania and nationwide, communities of color are more likely to live near Superfund and Brownfield sites. The IIJA will invest \$21 billion nationwide into environmental remediation projects, including cleaning up Superfund and Brownfield sites that are harming people's health.
- ★ The IIJA also includes \$244 million in 2022 for reclaiming abandoned mine land and \$104 million for plugging orphaned oil and gas wells across Pennsylvania. Both efforts will be critical for protecting drinking water supplies from further contamination.
- ★ The IIJA also added an additional \$3.5 billion to the Weatherization Assistance Program, which will aid an estimate 700,000 low-income people across the country reduce their annual energy expenses, especially as extreme climate events become more common.
- ★ Nationwide, the IIJA will invest \$100 million annually into a program called "Healthy Streets," which will fund projects that reduce heat islands, improve air pollution and reduce storm water runoff, especially in disadvantaged and urban communities.

EXPANDS WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- ★ The IIJA permanently authorized and expanded the Minority Business Development Agency, which, through its Pennsylvania office, serves the roughly 160,000 minority-owned businesses across the Commonwealth.
- ★ The IIJA includes several provisions to ensure that people of color are given fair access to the hundreds of thousands of jobs that the bill will support. This includes the over 30,000 jobs a year in Pennsylvania that IIJA is projected to support.
- ★ Beyond encouraging the hiring of people of color, the IIJA will also invest money in training programs that will prioritize ensuring that people of color have the skills needed to compete for these jobs.