



# **APWA Government Affairs Update**

**Arizona Chapter**

**February 21, 2024**

# Today's Topics

- **What is happening in DC?**
  - **Election year (all US House, 1/3 US Senate)**
    - Rs have majority in House (219 to 212, 4 vacancies)
    - Ds have the majority in the US Senate (51 to 49)
  - **FY 2024 appropriations not done**
  - **President's budget expected March 11**
- **IJA implementation**
  - Signed Nov. 2021, funded March 2022
- **APWA Public Policy Priorities**
- **APWA Tools and resources**

# IIJA

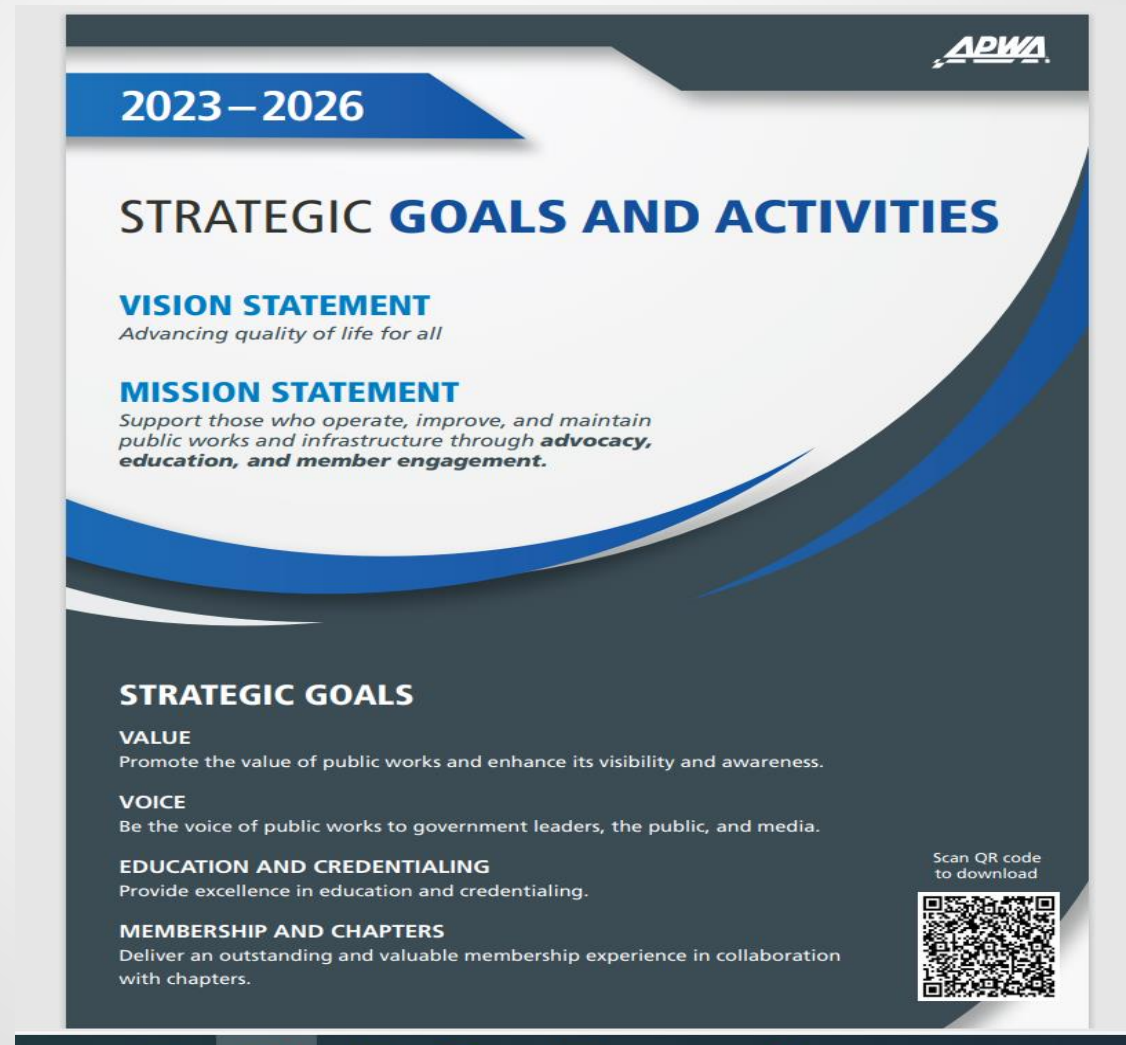
## Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act Overview

- Authorizes nearly \$973B between FY22 and FY26, including \$550B in new federal money for infrastructure projects and renew existing programs
- \$110B for roads, bridges, other major projects
- \$73B to update nation's electricity grid
- \$66B for passenger, freight rail
- \$65B for broadband internet
- \$55B for water infrastructure
  - \$15B to remove lead pipes
- \$50B for climate resiliency projects
- \$39B for public transit
- \$25B for airports
- \$21B for environmental remediation projects
- \$17B for ports, waterways
- \$11B for transportation safety projects
- \$7.5B for low emissions buses, ferries
- \$7.5B to construct EV charging stations



# APWA Strategic Plan

Be ‘the voice’ of public works to government leaders, the public, and media.



**2023 – 2026**

**STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIVITIES**

**VISION STATEMENT**  
*Advancing quality of life for all*

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*Support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through **advocacy, education, and member engagement.***

**STRATEGIC GOALS**


**VALUE**  
Promote the value of public works and enhance its visibility and awareness.

**VOICE**  
Be the voice of public works to government leaders, the public, and media.

**EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALING**  
Provide excellence in education and credentialing.

**MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS**  
Deliver an outstanding and valuable membership experience in collaboration with chapters.

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# APWA's Public Policy Process

- Every 2 years to align with U.S. Congressional Cycle
- Written to best represent APWA's membership
- GAC with APWA Government Affairs staff review and draft policies
- Board reviews and approves
- Process for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress Begins with GAC in March

# Emergency Management Priorities

- **PLANNING**
- **MITIGATION**
- **COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION** Support across sectors, platforms for effective mitigation, response
- **STREAMLINING** Streamline funding, management, response mechanisms
- **CYBER THREATS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**118th U.S. Congress Policy Priorities:**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The American Public Works Association (APWA), representing over 30,000 public works professionals in North America, is committed to making certain public works professionals have the training, support, and investment needed to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of emergency situations. When a disaster occurs, public works is often the first to respond and the last to leave. As first responders, public works professionals serve a vital role in ensuring national critical infrastructure functions and provides valuable first-hand perspectives that should be factored into how federal programs affecting emergency management, cybersecurity, and telecommunications are developed and implemented. APWA applauds the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law November 15, 2021. The \$1.2 trillion federal investment over 5 years demonstrates an important commitment and partnership between the federal, state, and local levels of government. APWA supports full funding for federal programs that strengthen the nation's ability to mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters. We must work together to protect our first responders and critical infrastructure, and to achieve these objectives, APWA supports the following:

- PLANNING**  
Public works is critical in emergency planning, responding to, and recovering from infrastructure impacts from natural and man-made disasters. Furthermore, in 2003 with the enactment of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8, public works was recognized as first responders.
- MITIGATION**  
Since 2018, more than 500 Major Disaster and Emergency Disaster Declarations have been issued by the President. In 2022 alone, there were over 70 disaster declarations. APWA advocates for and supports federal emphasis on mitigation through federal grants, training opportunities, and tools like asset management.
- COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION**  
Efficient and operational communication among public works professionals and other first responders is required for effective preparedness, response, and recovery operations. First responders in public works, along with law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel, are on the front lines responding to disasters and protecting people, and critical infrastructure.
- STREAMLINING**  
APWA supports permanently enacting the now-expired 2006 Post-Katrina Management Reform Act pilot programs and include in the Stafford Act.

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**FIRST RESPONDER**

**CYBERSECURITY & TELECOMMUNICATION**  
As first responders, public works professionals and first responder partners must be included when developing, implementing, and executing cybersecurity and telecommunication policies and programs, such as FirstNet.

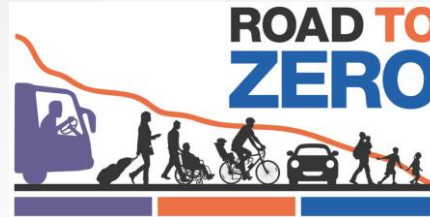
**PRIORITY – PLANNING/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Ensure federal training programs designed to enhance interagency cooperation in emergency management includes public works response aspects, and actively seek public works participation in design and attendance.
- APWA strongly encourages the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work with local, state, and tribal governments to ensure a Public Assistance (PA) deductible can be properly drafted and meet unique population needs.

**The number of Major Disaster Declarations in the United States has increased over time**

# Transportation Priorities

- Safety



- Streamlining



- Resilience

**118th U.S. Congress Policy Priorities:**  
**TRANSPORTATION**

The American Public Works Association (APWA), representing over 30,000 public works professionals in North America, is committed to making transportation infrastructure safer, more resilient, and best able to meet the changing needs of the 21st century.

APWA applauds the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law November 15, 2021. The \$1.2 trillion federal investment over 5-years demonstrates an important commitment and partnership between the federal, state, and local levels of government. This increased funding must be distributed in a timeframe that government agencies can accommodate, while controlling project costs. We must work together to build on the opportunities IIJA is creating through successful implementation, and to enhance this goal, APWA supports the following:

**SAFETY**

A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) September 2022 Traffic Safety Facts report states for seven consecutive quarters, beginning with the third quarter of 2020, there has been a year-to-year increase in traffic-related fatalities. NHTSA's projection for the first half of 2022 indicated 20,175 people died in motor vehicle crashes (almost 112 fatalities/day). This trend is moving in the wrong direction, and according to the same report, the highest number of fatalities during the first half of a year since 2006. We must work together to reverse this terrible trend.

Additionally, APWA backs transportation programs supporting safety improvements for rural roads, work zones, public transit, railroads, trails, and for achieving road to zero goals, and improving traffic incident management. Due to the importance of safety, APWA strongly encourages the greatest possible amount of flexibility and accommodations to support safety projects, and to include streamlining for permitting, reporting, and other project requirements.

**CONTINUE STREAMLINING SUCCESS**

APWA is pleased with the enactment of "One Federal Decision" processes in IIJA, and the law takes important steps to continue responsible streamlining of regulatory requirements and permitting processes to protect the environment while effectively distributing funds.

Ensuring all communities – especially small, rural, tribal, or historically disadvantaged – can access the funding opportunities of IIJA. Making certain these communities can connect to technical experts and leverage resources to assist in streamlining infrastructure processes and permitting is essential to the law's success and improving and protecting quality of life. It is important that local governments have a seat at the table and are fully engaged in the permitting process as they know their communities best.

In addition to the steps already taken, APWA strongly suggests the following:

- Continue to enact major streamlining improvements to processes for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental clearances and permit approvals, including expanding categorical exclusions (especially projects aligning with safety and sustainability goals). Exempt environmentally beneficial active transportation and public transit projects from federal regulations (especially NEPA), such as projects funded under the Transportation Alternatives Program.

**ROAD TO ZERO**

APWA strongly supports funding increases IIJA authorizes for existing transportation safety programs and its establishment of new programs with a significant safety component. Specifically, APWA is focused on ensuring these programs are fully funded and the information is disseminated to our membership for maximum impact on improving the safety of all those utilizing our transportation network. These programs include, though are not limited to:

- Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Formula Program
- Safe Routes to School
- Safe Streets and Roads for All
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- Wildlife Crossing Safety

# Water Resiliency Priorities



118th U.S.  
Congress Policy  
Priorities:

## WATER RESILIENCY

The American Public Works Association (APWA), representing over 30,000 public works professionals in North America, is committed to making water infrastructure safer, more resilient, and best able to meet the changing needs of the 21st century.

APWA applauds the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law November 15, 2021. The \$1.2 trillion federal investment over 5-years demonstrates an important commitment and partnership between the federal, state, and local levels of government. We urge full funding for programs that support maintenance and development of water infrastructure such as State Revolving Funds, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), Rural Utilities Service, Public Water System Supervision grants, and the Public Works and Economic Development program. Funding must be distributed in a timeframe that agencies can accommodate, while controlling project costs. We must work together to build on the opportunities IIJA is creating through successful implementation, and to enhance this goal, APWA supports the following:

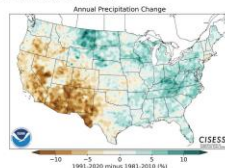
### RESILIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP

- APWA urges that the authorized funding for replacing lead drinking water services lines under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is implemented.
  - Proactive communities have experienced cost and timing issues that suggest funding delays impact implementation goals.
- Support targeted improvements for water systems for natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events by fully funding:
  - Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Program
  - Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program
- Support is crucial for programs such as the Water SMART Drought Response Program, which assists state, local, tribal, and critical service entities with drought-related activities and expands the technology transfer of drought and water conservation strategies.
  - EPA should encourage the development of regional preparedness and response plans by water providers in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies, and require these plans mitigate the negative economic, social, and environmental impacts caused by a lack of available water or flooding.
- EPA should support and guide states on how to incorporate a more coordinated, cooperative, and communicative water management strategy plan in grant programs. EPA must also use comprehensive planning, data, and analytical methods.
  - Plans should incorporate land-use planning, proactive mitigation, resource stewardship, environmental conservation, metrics/measurement of per capita use, and public education as the basis of the initiative.

- Support tenets and concepts in the National Water Reuse Action Plan as policy guidance for current, future federal, state, and local programs.
- Create incentives to reward proper asset management and help reverse the decline and failure of water infrastructure.

### UPDATE

- Public works professionals are at the forefront when addressing emerging contaminants, including Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Public works should be included in conversations with regulators and other relevant stakeholders on the safety and science surrounding these chemicals. APWA supports regulatory standards informed by thorough research and peer-reviewed scientific studies.
  - Public works facilities that abide by best practices for on-site treatment and disposal of biosolids should not be held liable for issues they did not create. Unwarranted legal expenses hinder investments in system improvements and raise costs for communities they serve.



- **UPDATE** Water, wastewater regs
- **RESILIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP**
- **STREAMLINE** Local, state, federal governance structures
- **WORKFORCE**



# U.S. Senate and House Committees



# Federal Agencies / Partner Orgs



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



**FEMA**



# APWA Tools



<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/apwagovaffairs>



<https://twitter.com/APWAGovAffairs>



[Advocacy Letters](#)



[Washington Report](#)



[U.S. Infrastructure Law](#)



## Public Works Economic Impact

A national and state level overview of public works employment and economic figures

May 2023



## Economic Impact of Water Resiliency

### OVERVIEW

- Globally, more than 2 billion people live in highly water-stressed countries, and about 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month of the year
- An estimated 80% of the world's wastewater is released untreated into the environment, polluting water resources faster than nature can recycle and purify them
- Since 1990, water-related catastrophes have accounted for almost 90 percent of the top thousand most devastating natural disasters
- The U.S. needs to invest a total of \$109 billion per year in water infrastructure over the next 20 years in 2019 dollars to close the water infrastructure gap according to the U.S. Water Alliance
- In 2019, total capital expenditure on water infrastructure at the local, state, and federal levels was approximately \$48 billion, while investment needs totaled \$129 billion, creating an \$81 billion funding gap:
  - If trends continue, the capital investment needed for water infrastructure repairs and improvements will total \$3.27 trillion over the next two decades;
  - Underinvestment would lead to a cumulative \$2.9 trillion decline in GDP by 2039

### FAST FACTS

- 2.1 trillion**  
Gallons of drinking water lost as a result of aging infrastructure in U.S.
- \$500 billion**  
Estimated cost of replacing the nation's water infrastructure
- \$7.6 billion**  
Cost of lost water in 2019 due to leaks from poor infrastructure in U.S.
- 636,000**  
Jobs lost annually by 2039 as a result of lower production volumes
- 89,000**  
Expected U.S. manufacturing job losses as a result of unreliable water services

# APWA's Resources for YOU

- APWA Homepage: [apwa.org](http://apwa.org)
  - “Government Affairs” tab
  - Government Affairs team
  - APWA leadership
  - Government Affairs Committee
  - Legislative action alerts—[Text PWX to 52886](http://TextPWXto52886.com)
  - Public Policy Priority documents
  - [Tell Your Story](#)
  - [House Public Works and Infrastructure Caucus](#)
  - [APWA Reporter Magazine](#)
    - Gov Affairs columns (Washington Insight, GAC Insight, Public Visibility)

# Advocacy in Action



# Public Works Awareness

COLORADO / PUBLIC WORKS AWARENESS



## National Fir agency part

APWA's National Fir agency part...



## Signed and Enacted: Legislation in support of

APWA's National Fir agency part...

COLORADO / PUBLIC WORKS AWARENESS

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## Ontario Chapter awards program

APWA's Ontario Chapter awards program...

The Ontario Chapter awards program...

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## APWA's Minnesota Chapter living the advocacy life

APWA's Minnesota Chapter living the advocacy life...

COLORADO / PUBLIC WORKS AWARENESS



## How the Washington State Chapter uses a lobbyist to stay in front of public officials

How the Washington State Chapter uses a lobbyist to stay in front of public officials...

COLORADO / PUBLIC WORKS VISIBILITY



## Summer school in session: Public works as a community educator

Summer school in session: Public works as a community educator...

COLORADO / PUBLIC WORKS AWARENESS



## Public Works Needs YOU!

Public Works Needs YOU!...

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## National Public Works Week all year long

National Public Works Week all year long...

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**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

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