

Fixing America's Roads

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AJP invests in "modernizing
20,000 miles
of road infrastructure."



American transportation infrastructure is crumbling, and one of the primary goals of the American Jobs Plan (AJP) is to repair structurally deficient and unsafe roads and bridges. Through an investment of \$115 billion, roads, bridges, highways, and other infrastructure in the United States in desperate need of repair will receive necessary upgrades to make them safer and more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

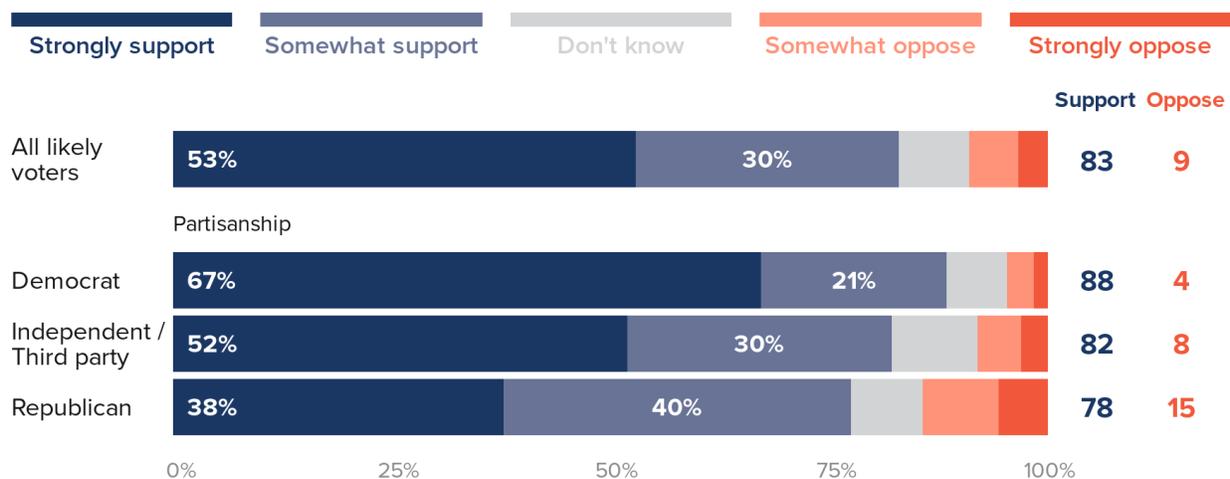
The AJP would also establish a competitive grant program to target additional funding toward America's most economically critical bridges and 10,000 smaller bridges badly in need of repair, including those that reach rural and tribal communities. In addition to modernizing 20,000 miles of road infrastructure, the AJP includes a \$20 billion investment in road safety programs to tackle the ongoing public health crisis of traffic injuries and fatalities. Given that over 40,000 lives are lost to traffic accidents annually, the Biden Administration needs to embark upon an ambitious effort to make America's roads safe for drivers and pedestrians alike.

After four years of Donald Trump, in which promises to repair America’s crumbling roads were neglected, it is welcome that the Biden Administration understands the need for fixing roads and bridges. As noted by advocacy organization Transportation for America, it is important that the Administration’s promise to reduce congestion does not rest upon the building or widening of highways. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg was correct to say that car ownership should not be necessary to prosper in the United States, and reducing congestion in the interest of decreasing emissions rests upon investing in alternative transportation methods. It is imperative that the much-needed push for road repair does not become an initiative for road expansion.

Nearly all Democrats, Independents, and Republicans support the AJP’s proposal to repair roads and bridges to withstand the impacts of climate change. Support for this proposal among all likely voters enjoys a 74-point margin of support (83 percent support, 9 percent oppose). Across party lines, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans support this proposal by 84-point, 74-point, and 63-point margins, respectively. With near-unanimous support across the board, it is clear that making our physical infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change is a top priority among voters regardless of political party. Moreover, it is notable that there is overwhelming bipartisan support for this proposal when it is framed as making our infrastructure more resilient to climate change. Democratic lawmakers should be sure to ensure that funding for physical infrastructure like roads and bridges is framed around improving the quality and resilience of the infrastructure we already have rather than building new carbon-intense infrastructure.

An Overwhelming Majority of Voters Support Making Our Infrastructure More Resilient to Climate Change

Do you support or oppose the following proposal in the American Jobs Plan: Repairing roads and bridges to withstand more flooding, extreme weather, and other impacts of climate change



May 5–6, 2021 survey of 1,328 likely voters

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