



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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**April 20, 2021**

## **Interim Update - More on Biden American Jobs Plan**

The Biden-Harris Administration's \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan (AJP) continues to be the talk of the town. Infrastructure supporters and most industry stakeholder groups are expressing strong support and enthusiasm, although many congressional Republicans and those concerned about the corporate tax increases proposed to pay for the plan are worried and opposed. The ambitious plan is now facing the reality of precisely how to make it happen. The President may provide additional details about the plan in his April 28 remarks before a joint session of Congress.

The Administration, including President Biden personally, is working tirelessly to promote the plan, but it is ultimately up to Congress to draft and pass legislation implementing the plan. While the plan has been discussed at various congressional hearings, neither the House nor the Senate have taken any formal action to date to move the proposal. In the House alone, as many as eight different committees may want to weigh in.

Unlike with President Biden's coronavirus relief bill, the American Rescue Plan, there is no urgent deadline for a broad infrastructure bill on the scale the White House is proposing (although the smaller, more focused surface transportation-only FAST Act expires on September 30, 2021), meaning the legislative fight could take months despite pledges by congressional leaders to pass legislation by July 4.

Individual members of Congress have already started to weigh in with requests for parochial provisions, project-specific funding, and tax changes they want to see included in the bill. Some are urging the White House to drop the \$400 billion home and elder-care provisions to cut the bill's cost and keep the plan focused on "traditional" infrastructure. Others are waiting to see the second portion of Biden's infrastructure package – the American Families Plan, expected to be released in the next few weeks, which will focus on social programs, such as the child tax credit and paid family and medical leave, and call for increases in the tax rates for wealthy individuals and investors.

The White House says it wants a bipartisan deal and the President says he is willing to compromise, but congressional Democrats are preparing to move ahead alone if necessary, despite the extremely tight Democratic majorities in both houses. At a White House meeting on Monday afternoon, President Biden urged Republicans to offer their own alternative to his proposal, saying he's open to looking at any idea that has bipartisan support and a way to pay for it. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), the top Republican on the Senate EPW Committee which oversees public works, has proposed a \$600 billion to \$800 billion package, but without any program details.



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Here is a [link](#) to **state by state Fact Sheets** of the AJP prepared by the White House. At this time, they are still quite vague and primarily discuss each state's infrastructure investment needs (mostly taken from the ASCE Report Card) and the amount of funding proposed **nationwide** in the AJP, not per individual state. From the White House – “the state-by-state fact sheets highlight the urgent need in every state across the country for the investments proposed by President Biden in the American Jobs Plan. The fact sheets highlight the number of bridges and miles of road in each state in poor condition, the percentage of households without access to broadband, the billions of dollars required for water infrastructure, among other infrastructure needs”.

Here is a [link](#) to a **two-page breakdown of the \$571 billion funding proposed by the AJP specifically for transportation infrastructure**. The numbers have not changed since the original 27-page Administration [Fact Sheet](#) on the AJP was first released.