

FY 2017 & FY 2018 Infrastructure Appropriations

ASCE Position

ASCE believes an immediate step Congress can take to improve America's infrastructure is to return to a regular order appropriations cycle and provide adequate funding to existing federal infrastructure programs and accounts. The lack of an FY17 spending bill has put in limbo \$1.3 billion in surface transportation investment. Furthermore, while ASCE supports exploring new infrastructure legislation and funding proposals, many currently authorized programs do not receive full funding or do not function effectively.

Key Points

ASCE recommends Congress:

- ❖ Pass FY17 and FY18 spending bills so the FAST Act's increased funding levels can take effect during this fiscal year, and next.
- ❖ Triple the Clean Water State Revolving Fund annual appropriations from \$1.39 billion to \$4.17 billion
- ❖ Triple the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund annual appropriations from \$863 million to \$2.58 billion.
- ❖ Fund the Dam Safety Program and High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Program for FY17 and FY18 at \$23.9 million each year.
- ❖ Fund the Levee Safety Program at \$79 million annually.

Status

The FAST Act

Congress passed the five-year surface transportation authorization FAST Act in December 2015 and included an increase in funding to help improve the nation's highways, bridges, and transit and systems. However, as no appropriations bill has been passed since then, the Continuing Resolutions have kept funding at pre-FAST levels.

State Revolving Funds

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) more than \$655 billion is needed to repair and replace drinking water and wastewater infrastructure nationwide over the next 20 years. Current annual appropriations for the Drinking Water SRFs is just under \$1 billion per year and the Clean Water SRFs average \$866 billion per year.

Dam Safety and Rehabilitation Program

Congress reauthorized the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 and established a new high Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Program in WRDA 2016. The High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Program will provide grants to high hazard non-federal dam rehabilitation repair or removal. The NDSP

program is authorized at \$13.9 million a year until 2019. The federal rehab program is authorized at \$45 million over 10 years, but has not received any funding.

Levee Safety Program

Congress established a new levee program in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 to promote consistent safety standards, create levee safety guidelines and provide funding assistance to states for establishing participating levee safety programs. The program is authorized at \$395 over 5 years, but has not received any federal funding.

Background

ASCE has long been an advocate for improving and maintaining the nation's infrastructure. ASCE's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* rates the overall condition of the nation's infrastructure a "D+," with an investment gap of \$2 trillion. An economic study we released last year found that the U.S. is on track to invest only half of what is needed in infrastructure over the next decade. This underinvestment will cause our infrastructure to further degrade, resulting in a loss of 2.5 million jobs and \$3.9 trillion in GDP by 2025. And it will cost American families \$3,400 a year – \$9 a day.

References

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Pub. L. 92-500)
Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Law of 1997 (Pub. L. No. 104-182)
Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94)
Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-121)
Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Pub. L. No. 114-322)

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