



### *What's the Issue: Volume One*

## THE URGENT NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

In our "*What's the Issue*" series, we aim to break down some of the most pressing big-picture issues so that we can see how they directly impact us right here in our communities. The Biden administration's infrastructure plan calls for a \$2 trillion investment, including \$174 billion in spending to boost the electric vehicle market and \$115 billion to repair and rebuild bridges, highways, and roads.

Infrastructure isn't limited to concrete and asphalt, it spurs economic growth and supports the vital linkages that make Nassau's economy work every day. Now is the time for our region to seize the moment with ideas that meet the following criteria:

- ① Shovel-ready and worthy projects that will grow our economy
- ② Investments that provide taxpayers a return on their money
- ③ Efficiencies that lessen the operating costs in our budgets

### NATIONAL IMPACT OF INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING



One dollar in highway construction generates

**\$1.80**

of GDP in the short term.

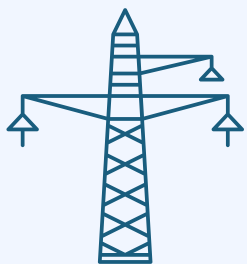
Every \$1 billion in spending on infrastructure supports more than

**34,000 JOBS.**

Every dollar spent in water and wastewater infrastructure yields

**\$2.62**

in economic output in other industries.



Every \$1 billion in spending on infrastructure supports the 10-year investment gap of

**\$2 TRILLION.**



\$1 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure creates more than

**26,000 NEW JOBS.**

### LOCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



**12** shovel-ready high-priority infrastructure projects supported by the Nassau County Executive and labor leaders.

More than

**3,300**

full-time construction jobs generated by the advancement of these projects.



More than

**\$400 MILLION**

in economic output by advancing the 12 priority projects.

APRIL 2021



## HOW INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO NASSAU COUNTY'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Infrastructure is the foundational backbone of the nation's economy, as it underpins economic activity and catalyzes growth and development. With local governments experiencing significant financial impact from COVID-19, an economic recovery that helps real people will make a real difference and lead to a more sustainable recovery for the County government's finances. Public transportation has an enormous impact and is among the best return on any infrastructure investment. With an opportunity to make bold, transformational investments in infrastructure, we need to be innovative as a region to modernize our communities now and for the future.

### Congestion Relief and Gateways into Sustainability: Invest and Expand Public Transportation

Public transit is essential to an economically vibrant region. For example, every dollar invested in public transportation generates **\$5 in economic returns** and every \$1 billion invested in public transportation creates approximately **50,000 jobs**. Every \$10 million capital investment in public transportation yields **\$30 million in increased business sales**. Accessible and affordable transportation options have the potential to reduce congestion by providing alternatives to automobile travel.

Public transportation, such as the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, can help alleviate congestion and provide environmental benefit by reducing greenhouse gases. Bus Rapid Transit includes running buses in dedicated lanes to bypass heavy traffic, triggering traffic signals, and providing pre-board fare payment. Bus-only lanes are a low-cost solution that use the capacity of existing corridors and provide immediate benefits to fixed route buses.

### Support Green Infrastructure for Sustainability Transitions

While public infrastructure renewal is fundamental to strengthening economic competitiveness, it also gives Nassau County the opportunities to provide cleaner alternatives, enhance community resiliency, and mitigate climate change. The economic benefits of green infrastructure investment create long-term competitiveness, productivity, innovation, lower prices, and higher incomes.

Green infrastructure, like green parking lots, green roofs, and other sustainable strategies, provides natural stormwater management, reduces energy usage, improves water quality, reduces future costs of stormwater management, and increases property values.

### Advance Clean Transportation and Charging Infrastructure to Combat Climate Change

Approximately **28%** of Long Island's carbon emissions are from on-road transportation and petroleum-based transportation, which statewide totaled **\$7.9 billion in health expenses and climate costs** in 2015. Long Island is a leader in electric vehicle adoption in New York State, with **12,833 registered electric vehicles** in 2019. However, more charging infrastructure is needed to keep up with the growing number of electric vehicles. In New York State there is an average **0.70 electric vehicles per available Level 2 car charging Port**, as compared to **42 electric vehicles per Level 2 Port** on Long Island. The investment and support of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure on Long Island will help reduce emissions and save residents' money. For instance, electric vehicle drivers pay **\$1.22 to drive the same distance** a conventional car could go on a gallon of gasoline.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's "Clean Cars for America Climate Proposal" pushes to accelerate the transition to net-zero carbon emissions by making clean cars and charging infrastructure accessible and affordable to all families. This program would allow consumers to receive a substantial cash voucher to trade in their gas-powered cars and buy a US-assembled and affordable electric vehicle.

### 12 Priority Projects

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran along with labor leaders have called for a **\$583 million** federal infrastructure stimulus to advance twelve priority projects. These projects would create **more than 3,300** full-time construction jobs and generate **more than \$400 million** in economic activity.

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