



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive  
Public Works Resource

[www.apwa.org](http://www.apwa.org)

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April 6, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: APWA FY 2027 Appropriations Priorities for Emergency Management, Transportation, Water, and Workforce Development

Dear Chair Collins and Ranking Member Murray,

The American Public Works Association (APWA) represents 32,000 public works professionals across North America who serve in both the public and private sectors providing expertise at the local, state and federal government levels. Working in the public interest, our members plan, design, build, operate, and maintain, America's vast infrastructure network that is so fundamental to our economy, environment, public health, and safety.

APWA strongly supported the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and its \$1.2 trillion federal investment over 5 years demonstrates an important bipartisan commitment and partnership among local, state, and federal levels of government. IIJA increased transportation funding by 50% and water infrastructure program funding by 80%. We must keep this momentum by making sure the investments for these important programs are implemented as intended by Congress.

As you begin drafting FY 2027 appropriations, APWA strongly recommends including the following funding and programmatic language to support critical infrastructure and public works priorities.

### **General Priorities**

IIJA kickstarted many needed infrastructure projects. With the sunset of these appropriations, APWA urges the committees to:

- Maintain appropriated funding levels to continue providing programmatic stability. When program funding is unreliable, communities often make difficult decisions to postpone projects as they cannot afford to make up for the lost federal investment.

PRESIDENT  
Vic Bienes, P.E.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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- Appropriate long-term infrastructure funding in FY2027 appropriations.
- Continue funding widely used pilot programs established in IJA which have become cornerstones of efficient public works activity.

Additionally, APWA supports the use of municipal bonds and restoring the ability for state and local governments to issue tax-exempt advance refunding bonds in lowering the total cost of bond funded infrastructure. Tax-exempt bonds are the primary mechanism through which state and local governments raise capital to finance a wide range of essential public projects. In 2023, more than \$350 billion worth of municipal bonds were issued, and using tax-exempt municipal bonds saved tax and ratepayers more than \$18 billion between 2007 and 2017. We urge your committees to exclude any language that removes municipal bonds' tax-exempt status.

### **Emergency Management Priorities**

When disasters occur, public works professionals are the first to respond and the last to leave the areas of damage. As federally recognized first responders, public works professionals serve a vital role in ensuring national critical infrastructure functions continue during emergencies. We appreciate the House Appropriations Committee including language to restore the recently discontinued Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) grant program, as well as the appropriation of \$31.8 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), and robust funding for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant programs (HMGP). These grants are essential for states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation projects. APWA also requests:

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) be funded at least \$3 billion in FY2027, which is consistent with current funding levels. CISA ensures that public works professionals have the resources to avoid, react to, and anticipate cybersecurity threats.
- The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Weather Service (NWS) are funded at \$6 billion, which is consistent with current funding levels. The research NOAA and NWS do is critical to tracking dangerous weather events that provide public works professionals notice to prepare for natural disasters.
- Funding for government-wide programs that provide emergency communications training for public works professionals and funding for the implementation of these systems. Full funding for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act. These programs provide funding to local governments for projects that reduce risks to homeowners, businesses, non-profit organizations, and communities.

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The federal government has consistently recognized the crucial role public works professionals play as first responders. Full funding for these agencies and programs helps public works agencies carry out their life-protecting responsibilities and supports state and local disaster preparedness and recovery.

### **Transportation Priorities**

APWA's transportation priorities strongly support improving the safety and resilience of our transportation network and continuing to reduce deaths and injuries on our roadways. The substantial increased investments authorized by IIJA for the Department of Transportation have been critical for improving protection of the traveling public and the safety of professionals who operate and maintain our transportation network. APWA backs transportation programs supporting safety improvements to local and rural roads, work zones, traffic incident management practices, public transit, railroads and railroad crossings.

Specifically, APWA supports funding for the following Transportation programs for FY2027:

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) which provides funding to local governments to develop comprehensive safety action plans and implement projects and strategies to address these roadway safety issues with the goal of protecting all users from injury and death.
- The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative Efficient Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program strengthens and protects evacuation routes, addresses vulnerabilities, and increases the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.
- The Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grants, which support demonstration projects to advance smart community technologies and systems to improve transportation safety and efficiency.
- The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program supporting infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact.

Additionally, APWA opposes any effort to increase truck size and length and urges the rejection of any language in FY 2027 appropriations that would increase maximum truck weight or length limits on federal highways. A March 2025 U.S. Department of Transportation study found that allowing heavier and longer truck configurations on interstates and U.S. highways would result in billions of dollars in damage to roads and bridges.

### **Water Priorities**

APWA members include large and small, urban and rural areas in providing our essential water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, drainage and flood control systems. Our nation's drinking water and

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wastewater infrastructure programs are essential to the health and wellbeing of every American. Access to these services and systems safeguards public health. All communities rely on federal investment to help support these important projects. With that in mind, APWA urges the committees to:

- Fund the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving funds (SRFs) at \$3.25 billion each. The flexibility of this program allows communities of all sizes to finance critical projects they could otherwise not afford without federal support and the programs' low interest rates, and loan forgiveness have saved communities \$969 million over the life of the loan compared to the market rate.
- Maintain Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act's (WIFIA) FY 2026 funding levels in FY 2027. Due to its low interest rates, WIFIA loans save an average of \$1 billion in interest over the life of the loans.
- Fully fund State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) at their FY 2026 Congressionally authorized levels in FY 2027. STAG programs provide funding for an array of projects and initiatives that allow municipalities to carry out vital operations. Programs include funding for lead service line replacement, emerging contaminant removal, cybersecurity protection, resilience, and stormwater management, ensuring communities will continue to have access to affordable and safe water while also preventing government requirements from becoming unfunded mandates.
- Maintain funding for water and wastewater loans and grant programs through the Rural Utilities Service at \$478.5 million. These programs exclusively serve communities of 10,000 or less in population and have proven to be the most effective mechanism for funding rural water and wastewater infrastructure in the country.

Water infrastructure is a good investment with every dollar providing up to a \$3.28 return on investment. Without funding for these projects, nearly 40,000 jobs and \$6.47 billion in economic output could be lost.

### **Workforce Development**

Public works professionals are tasked with building, operating, and maintaining our nation's vast infrastructure systems. As the workforce begins to retire, this sector is unable to achieve full rate of replacement. This strains employees who, in many instances, must perform double duty merely to maintain basic operations. APWA supports:

- The maintenance of dedicated and full federal funding for workforce programs supporting the emergency management, transportation, and water industries.
- The expansion of the definition of public works from IJJA to include all parts of the public works system. Doing this will help ensure that public works entities are specified as eligible to receive federal funding and training critical to their responsibilities and continued success.

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As the leader in public works education and credentialing programs, APWA knows training and continuing education are critical components in shoring up our nation’s public works workforce. By providing targeted funding to these federal training and apprenticeship programs, we can help to recruit, train, and retain the frontline workers operating and maintaining our infrastructure.

**Conclusion**

Each of these programs is vital to protecting our country’s public health and safety and promoting economic growth. On behalf of our members, we thank you for your attention and consideration. APWA stands ready to work with you and your staff on our common goals. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss any of our priorities. If you have questions, please contact APWA’s Director of Government and Public Affairs, Andrea Eales, at [aeales@apwa.org](mailto:aeales@apwa.org) or 202-218-6730.

Sincerely,

Vic Bienes  
APWA President

Scott D. Grayson, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

- The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, U.S. House Appropriations Committee
- The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, U.S. House Appropriations Committee
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

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