



COMMITTEE ON

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

SAM GRAVES, CHAIRMAN

H.R. ___ *BUILD America 250 Act*

Purpose:

The *Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act (BUILD America 250 Act)* is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and invests in America's most critical surface transportation infrastructure and programs for the next five years, including our roads and bridges, effective transit and rail transportation, and highway and motor carrier safety programs.

The *BUILD America 250 Act*:

- refocuses and strengthens many of our most proven infrastructure programs and policies that help move people and goods efficiently and safely across the entire United States. The bill
- provides the largest ever investment in bridges,
- consolidates and streamlines infrastructure programs,
- continues to ensure States have the flexibility to address their most important needs,
- reduces costs and delays associated with the project permitting process, and
- fosters the innovation and reasonable regulatory environment necessary to plan and look forward to our surface transportation system's future
 - For example, the bill provides the first ever autonomous commercial motor vehicle (CMV) framework to safely integrate autonomous CMVs onto our Nation's roadways and provide regulatory certainty.

Our roads, bridges, and rails make up the transportation network that we all rely on every day to get to work, get our kids to school, get to doctors' appointments and the grocery store, and bring goods to our front doors. The *BUILD America 250 Act* helps secure the continued reliability of our surface transportation system by ensuring that all users of the infrastructure, including electric vehicles, pay their fair share, providing the first new revenue stream into the Highway Trust Fund in over 30 years.

The bill was introduced by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO); Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA); Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman David Rouzer (R-NC); Highways and Transit Subcommittee Ranking Member Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Webster (R-FL); and Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Ranking Member Dina Titus (D-NV).

Legislative Summary:

Focusing on America's Highways

The BUILD America 250 Act focuses on the backbone of our nationwide surface transportation network: the system of highways and roads that connect our states, our communities, and our country, and the bill renews our focus on formula funding, proven to be most effective in meeting our most critical surface transportation needs. The bill:

- Emphasizes core formula programs, eliminates duplicative programs, and broadens eligibility under existing programs to ensure flexibility.
- Delivers more than 90 percent of highway funding via formula.
- Continues the fundamental principle that states know best what their unique needs are and how to address them.

Providing Historic Investments in Bridges

More than one-third of United States bridges are in need of major repairs or replacement, and motorists drive across "structurally deficient" bridges 163 million times each day. The BUILD America 250 Act recognizes the significant need to improve our bridges, in part, by providing the largest ever investment for bridges. The bill:

- Provides \$45 billion for a new bridge formula program, under which states will receive funding to support projects to improve America's bridges.
- Through the bridge formula program, addresses locally-owned and off-system bridges.
- Authorizes the Bridge Completion Program, intended to provide discretionary grants to complete large bridge projects.

Speeding Up Project Permitting

Time is money: the longer infrastructure projects take to go through the often-lengthy project approval process, the more projects cost. The BUILD America 250 Act reduces red tape to ensure that projects get built more quickly and with fewer costs attributed to delays. This bill saves taxpayers' money. The bill:

- Expands the use of categorical exclusions across the Department of Transportation (DOT) and doubles the cap on the limited Federal assistance categorical exclusion.

- Increases the cost threshold for major projects to \$1 billion (from \$500 million) to remove burdensome requirements.
- Removes unnecessary project review steps and streamlines permitting timelines to deliver projects faster and more reliably.
- Improves the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program to reduce the costs and burdens that have prevented these programs from being a viable form of financing for freight and passenger rail infrastructure projects.

Strengthening the Highway Trust Fund

The Highway Trust Fund is founded upon the user-fee principle, but for several reasons, we've never had less money coming into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to meet our infrastructure needs. The BUILD America 250 Act strengthens the future solvency of the HTF and ensures that all who use the system help pay for the system. The bill:

- Institutes an annual fee of \$130 on electric vehicles and \$35 on plug-in hybrids, affirming the user-pays principle and creating the first new revenue source for the HTF in more than three decades.
- These fees will increase by \$5 every 2 years until the annual fees reach \$150 for electric vehicles and \$50 for plug-in hybrids.

Improving Highway Safety

In 2024, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates 39,254 people died in traffic crashes on our Nation's roadways. Following Democrat-led disinvestment of our Nation's law enforcement, fatalities on United States roads skyrocketed. The BUILD America 250 Act recommits Federal support of law enforcement and ensures states have the resources they need to address their most pressing issues. The bill:

- Consolidates NHTSA's highway safety grant programs to reduce the burden associated with administering multiple programs, allowing states to focus their resources on reducing roadway fatalities.
- Focuses resources on addressing work zone safety, by improving data collection of related incidents and establishing an interagency working group to improve the protection of roadway workers.
- Supports law enforcement by increasing funding for the high-visibility enforcement program and establishing a traffic safety enforcement center of excellence for law enforcement agencies.

Supporting America's Truck Drivers

American truck drivers are the backbone of our communities, transporting over 11 billion tons of freight annually. The BUILD America 250 Act supports our Nation's truck drivers, ensuring they have the resources needed to keep our Country moving. The bill:

- Invests a dedicated \$750 million to expand truck parking so truckers have a safe place to rest at the end of their on-duty time.
- Restores dignity for truck drivers by establishing restroom access requirements for drivers waiting for goods to be loaded on their truck.
- Protects truck drivers from predatory lease-purchase agreements.
- Provides greater flexibility for truck drivers by codifying hours of service and electronic logging device exemption for livestock haulers and creating an online renewal system for seasonal commercial driver's licenses (CDLs).

Enhancing Motor Carrier Safety

Under President Trump and Secretary Duffy, the Department of Transportation is focused on raising the standard for roadway safety. The BUILD America 250 Act works hand in hand with the Administration to remove corrupt actors from the supply chain. The bill:

- Improves motor carrier safety by providing additional resources for law enforcement, requiring a review of the New Entrant Safety Assurance Program, and contemplating minimum knowledge standards for motor carriers to register with the Department.
- Provides increased funding for the Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators Grant Program Training for high quality training providers and requires the Secretary to promptly remove CDL mills from the training provider registry.
- Requires the Secretary to increase vetting of electronic logging devices and maintain an accurate list of revoked devices on a public website.

Boosting Transit Security & Efficiency

From rural communities to larger towns and cities, public transit provides important transportation options for many Americans. The BUILD America 250 Act supports effective transit for communities of all sizes and helps ensure that transit is safe so transit users and workers alike can get home safely. The bill:

- Requires the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to prioritize the delivery of safe, high-quality transit services and the safe transportation of passengers, workers, and property on public transportation systems.
- Prohibits transit agencies in urbanized areas from waiving security investments in passenger-facing safety infrastructure that mitigates crime and improves overall safety of public transportation systems.

- Allows the DOT to withhold 10 percent of transit grant money if an urban jurisdiction lacks criminal or civil enforcement mechanisms to protect against fare evasion and unauthorized transit system access.

Fostering Innovation

We must not only invest in the critical infrastructure we rely on today, it is also crucial to look ahead to the infrastructure needs of the future. The BUILD America 250 Act provides a regulatory environment that will foster innovation, right here in the United States, in the transportation and infrastructure sector. The bill:

- Boosts domestic manufacturing and improves national security by prohibiting DOT and DOT funding recipients from using LiDAR produced by a foreign adversary.
- Encourages expanded use of digital infrastructure across the transportation sector, improving efficiency and cutting project costs.
- Establishes a safety standard to permit autonomous commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) to operate in interstate commerce and provides the Secretary the authority to preempt state laws and regulations if they are unreasonably burdensome on the integration of autonomous CMVs in interstate commerce.

Combating Fraud to Improve Consumer Affordability

Cargo theft costs the freight industry more than \$18 million per day, or \$6.6 billion annually, increasing the cost of goods for consumers. The BUILD America 250 Act strengthens DOT's enforcement of cargo theft to bolster the United States supply chain and improve affordability. The bill:

- Establishes an advisory committee of experts in the freight industry to address cargo theft and freight fraud.
- Gives the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) the authority to assess civil penalties on individuals who violate FMCSA's statutes and regulations.
- Assesses security vulnerabilities affecting freight rail cargo to help protect the supply chain and reduce economic losses from theft and sabotage.

Promoting Amtrak Accountability

The Committee has continued to highlight the need for increased accountability at Amtrak, and the BUILD America 250 Act authorizes Amtrak while instituting important reforms to improve operations, transparency, and accountability. The bill:

- Increases accountability and transparency in how Amtrak uses, reports, and accounts for its funding, including how bonuses are awarded to senior executives
- Ensures Amtrak fulfills its obligation to comply with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.

- Promotes passenger and crew safety by ensuring passenger rail providers have implemented incident response plans, that can incorporate deescalation trainings.

Strengthening the Safe Transportation of Hazardous Materials

The BUILD America 250 Act ensures the safety of the transportation of hazardous materials across all modes. The bill:

- Reauthorizes the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, provides commonsense reforms, and protects United States and international hazardous materials transportation safety standards from potential undue influence from nations of concern, such as China.
- Consolidates hazardous materials safety grants to streamline the process for emergency response trainings and support for emergency responders.