

AISI Priorities on Transportation and Infrastructure Policy

An efficient transportation network directly impacts the competitiveness of the domestic steel industry, its customers and suppliers, and American manufacturing as a whole. Modernization of the nation's infrastructure will facilitate broad economic growth, enhance U.S. global competitiveness and strengthen our national security, while creating significant demand for domestic steel products.

AISI urges the Administration and Congress to focus on the following key actions to improve the nation's infrastructure:

- ***Funding for robust investments in infrastructure*** – Increased funding for infrastructure improvements through multi-year, long-term legislation should aim to rebuild the nation's transportation, water, energy and other infrastructure, with a focus on maximizing efficiency, capacity, project life, resiliency and global competitiveness. For surface transportation projects, a reliable, sustainable and dedicated funding mechanism that is based on the user-fee principle – those that use the federal highway system should pay for its upkeep and expansion – must be established to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund over the long term. Investments in critical infrastructure projects, such as the revitalization of the Soo Locks, are also vital to ensuring competitiveness of U.S. steelmakers by guaranteeing access to domestic raw materials that support domestic jobs and local communities. While all means to fund and finance infrastructure projects should be considered, the federal government's key role of planning, coordinating and funding transportation projects must be maintained.
- ***Project streamlining*** – Infrastructure funding should be accompanied by regulatory reforms that significantly shorten the permitting and approval process for project delivery.
- ***Ensure building materials are produced in the United States*** – All iron and steel used to rebuild the nation's infrastructure should be produced in the United States. Specifically, domestic preference provisions should require that all manufacturing processes for iron and steel occur in the United States, consistent with the longstanding application of the existing Buy America provisions for surface transportation projects administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In addition, Congress should:

- Authorize and fund water resources development projects that will modernize water infrastructure, improve navigation, assist with flood control and enhance safe drinking water systems; and



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- Pass legislation providing for a single national standard for the treatment of ballast water, while maintaining U.S. Coast Guard approved best management practices for vessels travelling in limited geographic areas, such as the Great Lakes Region and St. Lawrence Seaway.