

Economic Recovery and Revitalization Task Force



Co-Chair
Governor Andy Beshear
Kentucky



Co-Chair
Governor Henry McMaster
South Carolina

ISSUE AREAS

- Energy
- Environment
- Infrastructure
- Land Management
- State Stabilization
- Taxes

MEMBERS

- Governor Mike Dunleavy
Alaska
- Governor John Carney
Delaware
- Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
Guam
- Governor JB Pritzker
Illinois
- Governor Laura Kelly
Kansas
- Governor Janet Mills
Maine
- Governor Larry Hogan
Maryland
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Michigan
- Governor Phil Murphy
New Jersey
- Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina
- Governor Doug Burgum
North Dakota
- Governor Pedro Pierluisi
Puerto Rico
- Governor Phil Scott
Vermont
- Governor Mark Gordon
Wyoming

NGA STAFF

Christian Lovell
Tel: (202) 624-5357
clovell@nga.org

Richard Lukas
Tel: (202) 624-3623
rlukas@nga.org

The Economic Recovery and Revitalization Task Force's work is a continuation of Governors' efforts to highlight infrastructure needs across the country: In 2019, Governors adopted the National Governors Association's Principles for National Infrastructure Investment, spelling out four main areas of focus, and the following year, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's Chair's Initiative built on that framework and provided further bipartisan policy recommendations. This work culminated in November with final advocacy through NGA for the passage and enactment of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package.

Engagement with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Granholm

During the National Governors Association's Winter Meeting in February, the Task Force Co-chairs, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, began a larger policy discussion with the Biden Administration by moderating a session with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. In the session, many Governors stressed their priorities to the Secretary, which ranged from project streamlining to resiliency to innovative financing, such as public-private partnerships.

Governors were later joined by Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm at the National Governors Association's Summer Meeting in July. Secretary Granholm discussed what her department is doing to ensure electric grid reliability, support the buildout of electric vehicle infrastructure, and address other issues of concern for states.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

In early spring, the National Governors Association solicited all Governors' transportation policy priorities, and from that input, the Task Force then sent a letter to Congressional leadership requesting that the next surface transportation reauthorization increase existing funding streams, advance public-private partnerships, address regulatory delays and improve transparency, focus on resiliency, and promote innovation.

American Rescue Plan Act Engagement

The passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided states and territories with more than \$200 billion to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. While states have worked quickly to put this money to work, there have been questions on how these funds can be utilized. The Economic Recovery and Revitalization Task Force has worked with the Treasury Department to provide states with clarity and certainty as they develop spending plans, and earlier this year Govs. McMaster and Beshear moderated a discussion with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on usage of ARPA funds.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

After years of advocacy from Governors and through the National Governors Association, President Biden signed into law the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on Nov. 15, which was passed by the Senate in August and by the House earlier in November.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The \$1.2 trillion package provides for significant investment in the nation's roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, the electric grid, water systems and broadband. It also includes the bipartisan Senate-passed Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, bipartisan committee-passed Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act and Surface Transportation Investment Act, along with the bipartisan committee-passed Energy Infrastructure Act. NGA Chairman Governor Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas and Vice Chairman Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey applauded the signing and said: "States and territories stand ready to immediately put these funds to good use to fix and improve our nation's infrastructure."

This historic investment will help fund states and territories' core infrastructure priorities including:

- \$300 billion in funding to state highway projects and programs,
- \$73 billion investment in clean energy transmission upgrades,
- \$40 billion in grants to states for broadband deployment and to make broadband more accessible for low-income families in rural and urban communities alike, and
- \$17 billion in port infrastructure and \$25 billion for airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies.

In December, NGA Chairman and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Vice Chairman and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy sent a letter to the Office of Management and Budget. They outlined the priorities of states and territories in the regulatory process for the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. NGA is advocating for broad flexibilities for states and territories to help maximize the impact of the projects chosen for funding.