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Infrastructure Deal Creates Funding for Transportation Projects in Palm Beach County

West Palm Beach, FL (August 11, 2021) - The Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) is focused on advancing new and existing infrastructure projects in Palm Beach County with the Senate passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. The package includes a total of more than \$1 trillion in funding, of which approximately \$550 billion will be new spending. It will provide \$110 billion for roads, bridges and major projects, \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail, \$11 billion for safety and \$39 billion for public transit.

“The passage of this bill provides federal resources to support the expansion of a safe, efficient and connected multimodal transportation system throughout Palm Beach County,” said Nick Uhren, Executive Director of the Palm Beach TPA.

Proposals to create new gas taxes to fund the deal were shut down, but funding will come from multiple sources, including unused COVID-19 relief aid.

“The increased funding in this bill will grow the impact of the TPA’s Local Initiatives Program, accelerating and expanding the construction of Complete Streets projects to enable safe and comfortable access for transportation users of all ages and abilities,” Uhren said. “This will also incentivize local action on the TPA’s 561 Plan, a vision for the future of multimodal transportation for all of Palm Beach County, by offering federal matching funds for major investment projects that are supported with a dedicated local transportation revenue source.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will:

- Increase funding for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) suballocation, which provides flexible funding for states and local projects such as Federal-aid highway, bridge/tunnel work and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
- Increase funding for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as the Palm Beach TPA, to plan, fund and implement projects locally
- Create several programs to improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure
- Establish grant programs for MPOs to develop and implement Vision Zero plans which aim to achieve zero traffic deaths in the United States

The bill now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration. The TPA will monitor its progress during next steps.

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