

# BASICS ACT

*"BASICS" – Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success Act*

## THE BASICS, EXPLAINED

The **BASICS Act** updates federal surface transportation programs to better match how America's transportation system actually works. It focuses on directing funding to the roads and bridges people use every day, improving safety outcomes, and ensuring federal dollars move efficiently to projects that are planned, prioritized, and ready to deliver.

## WHY THIS BILL EXISTS

Local and regional governments plan for, own, and operate most of the nation's transportation infrastructure. These systems carry daily travel, regional freight, and national supply chains, but federal transportation funding remains concentrated on a limited portion of the network.

**75% & 50%**  
Of Road Miles & Public  
Bridges are Locally-Owned

**43%**  
Of the Federal-Aid Highway  
System is Locally-Owned

**85%**  
Of Roadway Fatalities Occur  
off the Interstate

**50%**  
Of Locally-Owned Roads  
are in Poor Condition

**Regions & local governments receive only 16% of federal transportation funding**



**persistent mismatch between responsibility, risk, & funding**

## WHAT THE BILL DOES

- **Fixes bridges based on condition and ownership:** Strengthens the Bridge Formula Program by prioritizing poor-condition bridges and requiring a 25% population-based suballocation to ensure local access.
- **Delivers local and regional priority projects faster:** Expands the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to increase predictable, flexible funding for states, regions, and local governments to advance critical local projects.
- **Targets safety dollars to high-risk roads:** Strengthens the Highway Safety Improvement Program by increasing available safety funding and suballocating 25 percent for regional delivery in urban and rural areas.
- **Strengthens accountability and local project selection:** Reinforces locally-driven project selection and improves follow-through from planning to obligation.
- **Builds planning capacity to deliver better projects faster:** Modernizes Metropolitan Planning funding and improves coordination between planning, performance measures, and project development to support efficient delivery.
- **Supports rural transportation:** Strengthens Rural Transportation Planning Organizations to help rural communities plan strategically and advance priority projects.
- **Protects local and regional dollars:** Limits the ability to shift funds out of suballocated programs, ensuring transportation dollars remain available for their intended safety and infrastructure purposes.

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## THE LOT COALITION

The bill aligns with priorities advanced by the **Local Officials for Transportation (LOT) Coalition**, representing cities, towns, counties, rural transportation planning organizations (RTPOs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and regional councils nationwide.

Together, our members plan for, own, and operate the majority of the nation's transportation infrastructure. The LOT Coalition advocates for federal transportation policies that recognize the integral role that communities play in our transportation system and strengthen the infrastructure that connects people, neighborhoods, and businesses.

### Toolkit



**Questions?** Contact Katie Economou, AMPO Legislative Director, at [keconomou@ampo.org](mailto:keconomou@ampo.org)

