



LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

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How Far Does the Moving Forward Framework Go?

On January 27, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio, and other House Democrats presented the [Moving Forward Framework](#) for infrastructure legislation. The original framework called for \$760 billion over 5 years on highways, transit, rail, air, energy, water, and communications infrastructure. On March 3, Speaker Pelosi announced that the [Rebuild America's Schools Act](#) (H.R. 865), which invests \$100 billion in school infrastructure over 10 years is being added to the framework.

Comparison to 21st Century New Deal for Jobs

In 2017, the Congressional Progressive Caucus released its [21st Century New Deal for Jobs](#) plan, a comprehensive \$2 trillion, 10-year infrastructure proposal. [Speaker Pelosi](#) explained how the original Moving Forward Framework can be consistent with a \$2 trillion infrastructure package: “Double [\$760 billion] for ten years...that still leaves a half a trillion dollars for further investments.” Education investments have since been included. Proposals on housing, public lands, and veterans could be added.

Compared to the Moving Forward Framework, the 21st Century New Deal for Jobs prioritized clean energy and water. Here are both proposals broken out by category (with all numbers adjusted to a five-year window):

Category*	Moving Forward	21 st Century New Deal
Highways and bridges	\$319 billion	\$195 billion
Rail and transit	\$160 billion	\$175 billion
Broadband and communications	\$98 billion	\$50 billion
Clean water	\$75.9 billion	\$175 billion
Clean energy	\$34.3 billion	\$250 billion
Aviation	\$30 billion	\$15 billion
Ports and waterways	\$29.7 billion	\$15 billion
Education	\$50 billion	\$50 billion
Affordable housing	Not announced	\$30 billion
Indian Country and public lands	Not announced	\$17.5 billion
Veterans	Not announced	\$15 billion

*This table excludes \$12.7 billion from the Moving Forward Framework and \$12.5 billion from the 21st Century New Deal because of categories that do not match up between the two. The Rebuild America's Schools Act is a 10-year proposal while the rest of Moving Forward is 5 years.

Comparison to H.Con.Res. 36

[H.Con.Res. 36](#), introduced in 2019 by Reps. Ted Lieu, Raja Krishnamoorthi, and Charlie Crist laid out 10 principles for infrastructure legislation. Here is an assessment of how the Moving Forward Framework fulfills those principles (as far as the detail in the proposal allows):

<i>Principles from H.Con.Res. 36</i>	<i>Moving Forward Framework</i>
1. Invest in creating millions of new jobs through investments in roads, bridges, and 21 st century projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation & Infrastructure Committee estimates 10 million jobs under original 5-year framework • Education & Labor Committee estimates 1.9 million jobs from 10-year Rebuild America's Schools Act
2. Prioritize public investment over corporate giveaways and selling off public goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not call for selling off public goods • Calls for strengthening Qualified Private Activity Bonds for public-private partnerships
3. Ensure that direct public investment, without reliance on private investors, provides the overwhelming majority of the funding for infrastructure improvement, so that public investments advance the public good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$810 billion over 5 years focused on direct funding • Calls for strengthening Build America Bonds, Qualified Private Activity Bonds, tax credit bonds, tax credit programs, and other financing tools
4. Prioritize racial and gender equity and environmental justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School infrastructure funding targeted at high-poverty schools • Calls for level playing field for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and improving the DBE program • Incentivizes reduction in aircraft noise and fuel pollution • \$1 billion to address PFAS • \$2.45 billion for brownfields redevelopment
5. Embrace 21 st century clean energy jobs, including expanding solar and wind power, promoting energy efficiency, and modernizing the energy grid, while avoiding support for projects that promote fossil fuel use and hasten the disastrous effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$34.3 billion in energy investments including grid security and modernization, energy efficiency, energy supply (including natural gas and renewable energy infrastructure), electric vehicles, and smart communities • Incentives for renewable energy and new technologies

<p>6. Include expanded Buy America provisions, protect and encourage the use of project labor agreements, require the use of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards, include strong local-hiring and veteran-hiring requirements, ensure racial and gender equity in hiring, and guarantee that disadvantaged communities most in need, including both urban and rural communities, receive priority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commits to “Davis-Bacon and other strong worker protections” ● No mention of local-hiring or veteran-hiring requirements ● Ensures consistency in Buy America domestic content reporting for transit projects and reaffirms iron and steel requirements for water and school infrastructure ● \$86 billion for broadband investments, including in unserved and underserved communities ● “Provides targeted funding for communities, tribes, and rural and other continually disadvantages areas” for highway investments ● Establishes minimum allocations for water investments in small and rural communities
<p>7. Ensure the wealthiest Americans and profitable corporations who reap the greatest economic benefit from public goods pay what they owe and pay their fair share for key investments moving forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Working toward responsible, bipartisan pay-fors” ● No assurance that the wealthiest individuals and corporations pay their fair share ● “User-based mechanisms” to boost the Highway Trust Fund, Airport and Airways Trust Fund, and Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund ● Reinstates the Superfund tax
<p>8. Ensure that investments are not paid for at the expense of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or any other vital program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does not suggest any targeting of Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid for funding
<p>9. Not weaken or repeal existing laws or rules protecting the air, water, or environment, transportation safety, civil rights, worker safety, prevailing wage standards, or minority contractor provisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No calls for weakening existing protections ● Commits to strengthening highway and rail safety, rail worker safety, Davis-Bacon, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises program
<p>10. Prioritize resilient infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters, as well as physical and cyber attacks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invests in resilience for highway, rail, water, energy, and communications infrastructure ● Invests in grid security