



# Building a Stronger America: Rural Communities Need Reliable, Modern Infrastructure

[INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY](#) | Issued on: February 21, 2018

**“No longer will we allow the infrastructure of our magnificent country to crumble and decay.”**

*President Donald J. Trump*

**RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN NEED OF REPAIR: Infrastructure systems across rural America have fallen into a state of disrepair, holding back rural communities.**

- More than a third of all major rural roads in the United States were in poor or mediocre condition in 2015 according to a report by TRIP, a national transportation research organization.
  - 15 percent of major rural roads were rated in poor condition.
  - 21 percent of major rural roads were rated in mediocre condition.
  - 14 states had 20 percent or more of their major rural roads rated in poor condition, with some states having around 40 percent in poor condition.
- Ten percent of all rural bridges were rated as “structurally deficient” in 2016, according to TRIP.
- Small community water systems, or systems that serve 3,300 people or fewer, have \$64.5 billion in funding needs over a 20 year period according to a report by the Environmental Protection Agency.
  - Because small water systems lack economies of scale, small cities often experience the largest percentage increase in user charges and fees.
- More than 100,000 miles of rail lines have been abandoned over the past few decades, reducing critical rail access in many rural communities.

**INSUFFICIENT BROADBAND ACCESS: Far too many Americans living in rural communities lack sufficient broadband access.**

- The high cost of rural broadband deployment has prevented commercial internet providers from installing broadband equipment in rural areas.

- Insufficient broadband access has left many rural Americans without the tools they need to engage in the modern economy and use important services such as telemedicine and long-distance learning.
- 39 percent of Americans living in rural areas, 23 million people, lack sufficient broadband access, according to a 2016 report by the Federal Communications Commission.

**RURAL PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON INFRASTRUCTURE: It is time to give rural communities the quality infrastructure they need in order to grow and thrive.**

- 93 percent of rural Americans believe Federal investments in infrastructure are important to improving the job situation in their communities, according to a June 2017 poll published by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation.
  - 74 percent of rural Americans polled believe infrastructure investments are “very important” to improving the job situation in their communities.
- Many industries important to the rural economy require efficient infrastructure, including energy production, manufacturing, and agriculture.
- Communities with agriculture dominant economies need reliable infrastructure in order to effectively conduct business.
  - Effective transportation systems help reduce the prices farmers must pay for operating supplies.
  - The agriculture industry relies on a variety of transportation methods such as trucking, rail, and waterways to maintain the agriculture supply chain.



**The White House**