



Alex Brandon/AP Photo

President Joe Biden speaks about the bipartisan infrastructure bill at the White House on Saturday.

# Congress passes \$1 trillion infrastructure legislation

By ALAN FRAM, ZEKE MILLER and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Saturday hailed Congress' passage of his \$1 trillion infrastructure package as a "monumental step forward for the nation" after fractious fellow Democrats resolved a months-long standoff in their ranks to seal the deal.

"Finally, infrastructure week," a beaming Biden told reporters. "I'm so happy to say that: infrastructure week."

The bill cleared the House on a 228-206 vote, ending weeks of intraparty negotiations in which liberal Democrats insisted the legislation be tied to a larger, \$1.75 trillion social spending bill — an effort to press more moderate Democrats to support both.

The Senate passed the legislation on a 69-30 vote in August after rare bipartisan negotiations, and the House kept that compromise intact. Thirteen House Republicans voted for the bill, giving Democrats more than enough votes to overcome a handful of defections from progressives.

Approval of the bill, which promises to create legions of jobs and improve broadband, water supplies and other public works, sends it to the desk of a president whose approval ratings have dropped and whose nervous party got a cold shoulder from voters in this past week's off-year elections.

Democratic candidates for governor were defeated in Virginia and squeaked through in New Jersey, two blue-leaning states. Those setbacks made party leaders — and moderates and liberals alike — impatient to produce impactful legis-

*'FINALLY, INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK. I'M SO HAPPY TO SAY THAT: INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK.'*

President Joe Biden

lation and demonstrate they know how to govern. Democrats can ill afford to seem in disarray a year before mid-term elections that could give Republicans congressional control.

Voters "want us to deliver," Biden said, and Friday's vote "proved we can." "On one big item, we delivered," he added.

The president will hold a signing ceremony when lawmakers return from a week's recess.

The infrastructure package is a historic investment by any measure, one that Biden compares in its breadth to the building of the interstate highway system in the last century or the transcontinental railroad the century before. He called it a "blue collar blueprint to rebuilding America."

The new law promises to reach almost every corner of the country. It's a historic investment that the president has compared to the building of the transcontinental railroad and Interstate Highway System. The White House is projecting that the investments will add, on average, about 2 million jobs per year over the coming decade.

Here's a breakdown of the bill:

### Roads and bridges

The bill would provide \$110 billion to repair the nation's aging highways, bridges and roads. According to the White House, 173,000 total miles of America's highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges are in poor condition. And

the almost \$40 billion for bridges is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the national highway system, according to the Biden administration.

### Public transit

The \$39 billion for public transit in the legislation would expand transportation systems, improve accessibility for people with disabilities and provide dollars to state and local governments to buy zero-emission and low-emission buses. The Transportation Department estimates that the current repair backlog is more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations and thousands of miles of track and power systems.

### Passenger and freight rail

To reduce Amtrak's maintenance backlog, which has worsened since Superstorm Sandy nine years ago, the bill would provide \$66 billion to improve the rail service's Northeast Corridor as well as other routes. It's less than the \$80 billion Biden — who famously rode Amtrak from Delaware to Washington during his time in the Senate — originally asked for, but it would be the largest federal investment in passenger rail service since Amtrak was founded 50 years ago.

### Electric vehicles

The bill would spend \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations, which the administration says are critical to accelerating the use of

electric vehicles to curb climate change. It would also provide \$5 billion for the purchase of electric school buses and hybrids, reducing reliance on school buses that run on diesel fuel.

### Internet access

The legislation's \$65 billion for broadband access would aim to improve internet services for rural areas, low-income families and tribal communities. Most of the money would be made available through grants to states.

### Modernizing the electric grid

To protect against the power outages that have become more frequent in recent years, the bill would spend \$65 billion to improve the reliability and resiliency of the power grid. It would also boost carbon capture technologies and more environmentally friendly electricity sources like clean hydrogen.

# Appeals court stays vaccine mandate on larger businesses

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops President Joe Biden "from moving forward with his unlawful overreach."

"The president will not impose medical procedures on the American people without the checks and balances afforded by the constitution," said a statement from Landry, a Republican.

The U.S. Labor Department's top legal adviser, Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda, said the department is "confident in its legal authority to issue the emergency temporary standard on vaccination and testing."

OSHA has the authority "to act quickly in an emergency where the agency finds that workers are subjected to a grave danger and a new standard is necessary to protect them," she said.

A spokesman for the Justice Department, Anthony Coley, said in a statement: "The OSHA emergency temporary standard is a critical tool to keep America's workplaces safe as we fight our way out of this pandemic. The Justice Department will vigorously defend this rule in court."

Such circuit decisions normally apply to states within a district — Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in this case — but Landry said the lan-

guage employed by the judges gave the decision a national scope.

"This is a great victory for the American people out there. Never before has the federal government tried in a such a forceful way to get between the choices of an American citizen and their doctor. To me that's the heart of the entire issue," he said.

At least 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the rule in several circuits, some of which were made more conservative by the judicial appointments of former President Donald Trump.

The Biden administration has been encouraging widespread vaccinations as the quickest way to end the pandemic that has claimed more than 750,000 lives in the United States.

The administration says it is confident that the requirement, which includes penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation, will withstand legal challenges in part because its safety rules preempt state laws.

The 5th Circuit, based in New Orleans, said it was delaying the federal vaccine requirement because of potential "grave statutory and constitutional issues" raised by the plaintiffs. The government needed to provide an expedited reply to the motion for a permanent injunction Monday, followed by petitioners' reply on Tuesday.

Lawrence Gostin, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and director of the World Health Organization's center on global health law, said it was troubling that a federal appeals court would stop or delay safety rules in a health crisis, saying no one has a right to go into a workplace "unmasked, unvaxxed and untested."

"Unelected judges that have no scientific experience shouldn't be second-guessing health and safety professionals at OSHA," he said.

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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>53 44</b>	<b>53 46</b>	<b>56 50</b>	<b>58 49</b>	<b>57 47</b>	<b>54 45</b>	<b>54 46</b>
Windy with rain	An afternoon shower	Cloudy with showers	Rain at times	Showers possible	A shower possible	Showers possible



### ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 50/40  
 Normal high/low ..... 56/41  
 Record high ..... 68 in 1923  
 Record low ..... 30 in 1993

**Precipitation**

Sunday ..... 1.17"  
 Month to date ..... 4.07"  
 Normal month to date ..... 2.24"  
 Year to date ..... 54.38"  
 Normal year to date ..... 50.77"

### UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Cygnus, the swan, is beginning its annual nosedive toward the western horizon.

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 7:08 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 4:50 p.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 12:53 p.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 9:22 p.m.



### TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:56 a.m.	7.0	10:15 a.m.	3.3	
3:52 p.m.	8.5	11:17 p.m.	-0.4	
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>				
4:32 a.m.	7.1	9:20 a.m.	3.8	
3:29 p.m.	8.5	10:23 p.m.	-0.7	
<b>Hammond</b>				
4:41 a.m.	7.2	9:44 a.m.	3.4	
3:43 p.m.	8.7	10:43 p.m.	-0.9	
<b>Warrenton</b>				
4:51 a.m.	7.4	9:59 a.m.	3.4	
3:47 p.m.	8.9	11:01 p.m.	-0.3	
<b>Knappa</b>				
5:33 a.m.	7.3	11:16 a.m.	2.8	
4:29 p.m.	8.8	none		
<b>Depoe Bay</b>				
3:48 a.m.	7.2	8:51 a.m.	3.9	
2:41 p.m.	8.8	9:57 p.m.	-0.8	

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	76/50/s	73/55/s
Boston	62/49/s	60/42/pc
Chicago	57/44/c	58/51/c
Dallas	75/60/pc	75/55/t
Denver	61/39/pc	58/30/pc
Honolulu	85/72/pc	87/73/s
Houston	76/60/pc	78/63/pc
Los Angeles	67/54/c	74/59/s
Miami	80/68/pc	81/73/sh
New York City	66/51/s	63/48/pc
Phoenix	82/58/s	82/59/s
San Francisco	65/54/sh	64/56/pc
Wash., DC	71/51/s	69/49/s

**Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

## REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	50/43	44/27/c	North Bend	56/46/r	57/52/c
Wenatchee	45/31	44/27/c	Brookings	54/48/r	57/53/r
Spokane	46/31	44/27/c	Ilwaco	53/47/r	55/46/c
Moses Lake	53/33	49/37	Newberg	51/44/r	53/47/c
Pullman	44/32	49/37	Newport	53/44/r	53/48/c
Walla Walla	49/39	49/37			
Lewiston	49/37	49/28			
Enterprise	49/28	51/38			
Pendleton	49/28	51/38			
La Grande	47/30	51/38			
John Day	51/35	51/35			
Ontario	54/35	51/35			
Burns	50/28	51/35			
Caldwell	55/38	51/35			
Medford	54/42	48/31			
Klamath Falls	48/31	48/31			