Message

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Sent: 3/29/2018 3:40:22 PM
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Subject: Infrastructure messaging content in advance of POTUS speech
Attachments: Infrastructure - Ohio Speech Factsheet.pdf

Infrastructure Cabinet Communicators,

Below is our recent infrastructure messaging in addition to some excerpts from today's speech and a new fact sheet which will go out later today. The President will speak in Richfield, OH at 2 p.m. EDT today. Please amplify the President's message through your channels as appropriate. You can tune in to the speech here and follow our updates via the @WhiteHouse twitter account.

Also, below is the fact sheet issued yesterday on the CEA Report addressing the benefit and impact of expanded infrastructure investment. There is a link to the report with an executive summary, and below that is a fact sheet further explaining the report, touting the specific benefits the economy would see as a result of the President's Infrastructure Initiative.

Thank you!

Brad

Brad Rateike
Director of Cabinet Communications
White House Office of Communications
[Ex. 6]
Desk: [Ex. 6]
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President Trump's Remarks in Richfield, OH

Excerpts as Prepared for Delivery

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

CEA Report: The Economic Benefits and Impacts of Expanded Infrastructure Investment

Today, the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released a report detailing the potential economic benefits from a comprehensive public infrastructure program. Please see below for the executive summary and read the full report here.

In this paper, CEA investigates the likely impacts from a comprehensive public infrastructure program. The program includes a 10-year, $1.5 trillion program of infrastructure investment as well as new administrative and regulatory policies intended to increase efficiency and speed delivery of infrastructure projects. CEA assesses the likely impacts of the program across three key domains: GDP growth, time needed for project completion, and labor market opportunities for infrastructure workers.

- CEA estimates that a 10-year, $1.5 trillion program of infrastructure investment could add between 0.1 and 0.2 percentage point to average annual real growth in gross domestic product (GDP). We further argue that getting the greatest possible impact from the program will require using our existing assets more efficiently, for example by using congestion pricing to allocate scarce capacity to its best uses.
- CEA notes that the average time needed to complete final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) reached 5.1 years for EIS completed in 2016, up from 4.7 years from two years earlier. CEA also finds that the average time needed to approve pipeline permit applications submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has risen over time and estimates that the median days needed for approval of pipeline project applications submitted in 2015 was 472 days. Speeding up the time needed to complete infrastructure projects is valuable because it accelerates the receipt of project benefits. CEA notes that the full Federal environmental and permitting process includes many components, of which compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is only one element. Contingent on the projected impacts of a project, both the lead Federal agency and other agencies may have to issue permits to satisfy Federal laws, and each of those determinations would also be subject to a NEPA determination by that agency. Overall, the entire process can include many studies and procedures that occur prior to the initiation of one agency's NEPA process and continue after that agency's NEPA process has concluded.
- Expanded infrastructure investment would also have direct implications for American workers. The President's plan would likely result in the employment of 290,000 to 414,000 additional infrastructure workers, on average, over a 10-year window, although these employment gains may be offset by losses elsewhere in the economy. Infrastructure jobs are particularly lucrative for, and disproportionately employ, workers with a high school degree or less. Infrastructure workers with a high school degree or less earn 14 percent more in median hourly wages than non-infrastructure occupations, while a subset of these workers, in skilled trades, obtain an even higher median hourly earnings premium of 32 percent.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S PLAN TO EXPAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT WILL BUILD A STRONGER AMERICAN ECONOMY

"I am asking both parties to come together to give us safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure that our economy needs and our people deserve." – President Donald J. Trump

GROWING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY: Expanding infrastructure investment would increase American economic growth and prosperity.

- President Donald J. Trump's proposal for rebuilding infrastructure in America uses $200 billion in Federal funds to spur at least $1.5 trillion in infrastructure investments.
- According to an analysis by the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), a 10-year $1.5 trillion infrastructure investment program could add between 0.1 and 0.2 percentage points to annual average gross domestic product (GDP) growth.
- Stronger GDP growth from increased infrastructure investment would help boost the American economy, raise wages for American workers, and improve the standard of living in American communities.

GENERATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN WORKERS: New investments in infrastructure would provide American workers with well-paying job opportunities.

- A major infrastructure investment program would provide employment opportunities for Americans who did not attend college.
- CEA estimates that a $1.5 trillion infrastructure investment would result in the employment of 290,000 to 414,000 additional infrastructure workers, on average, over a ten-year window.
    - There are an estimated 350,000 infrastructure workers currently unemployed and available to fill positions.
    - The positive effect on employment could be even greater if States loosen licensing requirements that prevent workers from working across State lines.
- Increasing infrastructure employment would especially benefit workers with fewer years of education.
    - In 2016, 62 percent of infrastructure workers had a high school degree or less.
    - Infrastructure jobs pay workers without any college education median hourly wages that are 14 percent higher than other occupations.
    - Skilled trade jobs often involved in infrastructure work provide a wage premium of 32 percent.
- President Trump's plan includes reforms to improve access to education and workforce-development programs, including expanding Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term programs and reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.
    - These reforms would help prepare American workers to fill infrastructure jobs as well as jobs in other sectors of the economy.

DELIVERING PROJECTS TO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES SOONER: Inefficient Federal permitting and review processes are slowing down infrastructure projects, delaying community access to needed improvements.

- The time it takes for infrastructure projects to navigate Federal environmental reviews is increasing, creating further delays for much-needed infrastructure projects.
    - The final Environmental Impact Statements issued in 2016 took an average of 5.1 years to complete, up more than 8 percent from 2014.
    - Average Federal permit approval times have also increased in some sectors.
- Reforming Federal regulations and permitting processes to speed up project completion times would give communities faster access to rebuilt and modernized infrastructure.

- Reducing project completion times would give communities quicker access to the time savings, health and safety benefits, and increased business activity that come along with infrastructure investments.
- The President's plan for rebuilding infrastructure in America shortens the environmental review process to two years and establishes a "one agency, one decision" structure.