

# LIUNA!

*Feel the Power*

# BUILD AMERICA TOOLKIT

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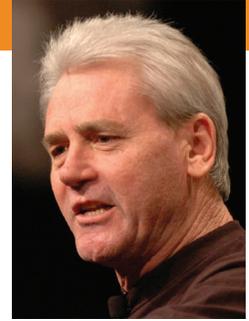
During this year's "Infrastructure Week" starting May 14, remind policymakers that LIUNA members build America every day by using materials in this toolkit. Send the message from General President Terry O'Sullivan to your members, host a news media event, discuss the factsheet at your next meeting, have members record an "I build America" video and share sample social media graphics online.

*To request digital files, send an email to [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org).*

**#InfrastructureWeek**

**May 14–18, 2018**

# LETTER FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT TERRY O'SULLIVAN



May 2018

For too long there's been too much talk, too little action and far too little investment in our country's crumbling critical infrastructure. As a result our transportation systems are failing, our water resources are antiquated, our energy systems are out of date, and our nation's ability to compete is hindered.

Our nation's infrastructure, which was once the envy of the world, now has a D+ grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers. To focus attention on this critical problem, LIUNA is helping to lead a broad coalition of organizations for Infrastructure Week—May 14 to May 18.

During Infrastructure Week, solutions will be highlighted, such as adjusting the federal gas tax and implementing a vehicle miles traveled fee to generate investment, as well as, state efforts to pump more investment into our transportation systems. Adjusting the gas tax user fee, currently frozen at 1993 levels, is a proven and efficient way to increase transportation infrastructure investment. Private investment in public projects can also finance infrastructure, and if done right, can create good union construction jobs, which protect workers with prevailing wages and project labor agreements.

No one solution will be enough. What is a certain, though, is that it will take significant national investment to keep our bridges from continuing to deteriorate, better maintain our roads, and improve the reliability of our water resources.

It is time our nation put its money where its mouth is. It is time to build.

Together we can help lead a movement to rebuild America, a movement that commands Congress and elected officials to listen and to take action.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

LIUNA is on the frontlines with a broad coalition of groups fighting for infrastructure investment that creates good jobs and revitalizes our nation's roads and bridges and our water and energy systems. You can help build the movement by asking LIUNA members to get involved and pushing your local elected leaders to make investments in the world class infrastructure that we need.



## HOST A MEDIA EVENT DURING INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

Is there local legislation or a bond measure LIUNA supports? You can highlight the need for policy that creates jobs building infrastructure by holding a rally or event at your state capitol, Local Union Hall, or a LIUNA Training Center.

### Sample News Advisory

#### **LIUNA Members 'Rally for Roads' Construction Workers Urge Local Leaders to Invest in Roads and Bridges**

LIUNA members will join transportation and construction industry representatives in a 'Rally for Roads' at the statehouse to urge legislators to pass legislation to invest in critical transportation projects. LIUNA members will be among those giving remarks.

WHAT: Rally for Roads  
WHEN: DATE/TIME  
WHERE: LOCATION  
WHO: LIUNA official(s), transportation industry advocates, union members

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Email [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org) for tips to plan your news media conference.



## ASK MEMBERS TO SPREAD THE WORD ONLINE

Members can join the conversation online by following LIUNA on Facebook @LaborersInternationUnionofNorthAmerica and @LIUNA on Twitter.

Videos make a difference. Ask members to record a 15-second video with the simple message: I am a LIUNA member and I build America. I build roads and bridges and I want my elected leaders to create good family-supporting jobs building my state.

Share links to member video stories by sending to [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org).

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED



## SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You can give LIUNA positive exposure and get our message out by reacting to recent news with a Letter to the Editor. Letters to the Editor should be brief—approximately 200 words—and relate to recent news.

### Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

This week is Infrastructure Week, during which a diverse group of organizations representing working people, industry associations and businesses will highlight serious problems with our nation's critical infrastructure.

Our goal is to build a movement to rebuild America's roads, bridges, transit systems, water resources, electrical grid and other neglected, deteriorating and often unsafe pieces of the backbone of our country.

Today, our infrastructure gets a D+ grade, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. In [insert your state from [www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-by-state/](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-by-state/)] the Civil Engineers gives us a [insert grade].

Rebuilding our fundamental infrastructure will make America stronger and more competitive in the world and create hundreds of thousands of good careers in construction.

There are many solutions, from adjusting the gas tax user fee to direct federal investment. But the biggest problem isn't a lack of solutions—it's Congress. For far too long there's been too much talk and too little action. I don't know what our elected leaders think, but I believe the U.S. must never be a D+ nation and [insert state] must not be a [insert grade] state.

We need to ask our elected leaders why they are allowing our country to fall into such disrepair. It's time to invest in infrastructure, something that we all rely on every day.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

Email your letter to your local newspaper to request publication.

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## PRINT AND POST THE LIUNA POSTER



Print and post this LIUNA poster in a prominent location in your Local Union Hall.

For digital file, email [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org).

# FACTSHEET

## The State of America's Infrastructure

Our infrastructure needs—from roads and bridges to water and energy—are vast and growing. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the total investment needed through 2025 is \$4.59 trillion. However, if lawmakers act now we can make this investment and create millions of good jobs building a lasting legacy for future generations.



### BRIDGES

The problems facing America's bridges are going unaddressed. Action and resources are needed now to prevent the cost and danger from escalating.

- In 2016, 9.1% of bridges were structurally deficient and nearly 14% were functionally obsolete.
- Each day, motorists make 188 million trips on a structurally deficient bridge.
- The current repair backlog for bridges requires \$123 billion.



### ROADS

Our nation's roads are deteriorating as investment falls billions short.

- Two of five urban interstate miles are congested.
- One in five miles of pavement is in poor condition.
- According to a 2014 study, poor roads cost Americans \$160 billion in lost time and wasted gas while contributing to traffic fatalities.



### WATER

Across the U.S. our water systems—from sewage overflows and water main breaks to deteriorating dams and levees—are failing because of chronic under-investment.

- There are about 240,000 water main breaks a year, resulting in the waste of 2 trillion gallons of drinking water.
- Utilities are not able to keep up with needed pipe replacements. At the current rate of .5% per year, it will take 200 years to replace needed pipes—well past the useful life of these pipes.
- 2,170 dams are deficient and would threaten lives and property if they were to fail.



### ENERGY

Our power grid is at full capacity. As demand grows, more and longer outages are likely.

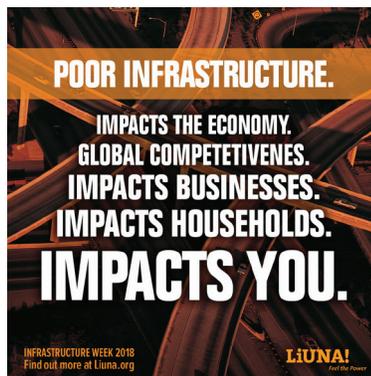
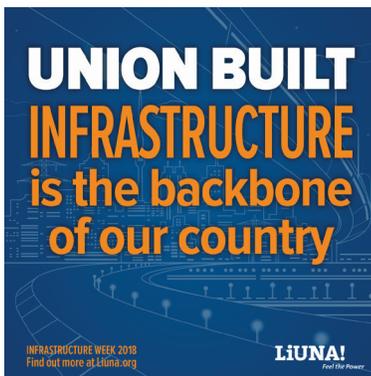
- The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded U.S. energy infrastructure a D+ and found that \$177 billion is needed between now and 2025 to upgrade the grid.
- Aging infrastructure and lack of resiliency resulted in 3,571 electricity outages in 2015.
- Expansion of energy infrastructure is also being held up by lengthy reviews and permitting processes that sometimes drag on for years.

Sources: American Society of Civil Engineers. 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. [www.infrastructurereportcard.org](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org)

# SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

For digital files, email [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org)

## SAMPLE GRAPHICS:



## SAMPLE TWEETS:

- Rebuilding our #infrastructure is an investment in #jobs, the economy, and America's hardest workers. #InfrastructureWeek
- The #gastax is a tried-and-true investment solution for America's #roads and #bridges. #TimetoBuild
- The #gastax can help build jobs-creating infrastructure. #TimetoBuild #InfrastructureWeek
- By investing more in #infrastructure, we can save 2.5 million US jobs #InfrastructureMatters #BuildingAmerica
- Tell Congress it is time to build! America's crumbling #infrastructure can't wait! #RebuildRenew
- We need to remain competitive, our #infrastructure can't wait! #InfrastructureMatters
- DYK poor #infrastructure is costing American families aound \$3,400 a year? #SafeRoadsYES
- America needs to stop playing catch up. Create #UNION jobs and invest in #infrastructure NOW! #RebuildRenew #BuildingAmerica
- Poor #infrastructure impacts the economy, global competitiveness, businesses, households and YOU! #infrastructureMatters #FixitNow

## TWITTER HASHTAGS:

- #FeelThePower
- #FixOurBridges
- #InfrastructureMatters
- #LIUNA
- #GasTax
- #BuidlingAmerica
- #LIUNABuilds
- #Infrastructure
- #SafeRoadsYES
- #RepairOurRoads
- #Transportation
- #RebuildRenew