



American Planning Association
Ohio Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

July 13, 2021

Dear Senator Portman,

As Executive Director of the American Planning Association Ohio Chapter, I am writing to thank you for your part in reaching a bipartisan framework that begins the hard work of addressing the nation's core infrastructure needs.

APA Ohio's 1,200+ members recognize that this was a politically difficult decision to make. We implore you to remain committed to this framework as policy ideas are translated into legislation. Your continued support for a bipartisan approach will ensure that momentum continues to build for securing a comprehensive infrastructure package that people and places so urgently need.

As an association of professional planners, elected officials, and community development professionals, APA Ohio wants to see federal lawmakers take swift action this summer to reform and invest in our transportation infrastructure. The pandemic made clear that neglecting core and emerging transportation infrastructure needs slows economic growth, creates inefficiencies, and disproportionately harms people who rely on these systems most. APA Ohio strongly supports the historic levels of investment in transit, rail, and electric vehicle charging stations embraced by this agreement.

While more must be done in the transportation space to cut climate emissions, APA Ohio applauds the bipartisan group's acknowledgment that preparing our transportation infrastructure for the consequences of these emissions is non-negotiable.

We also appreciate the emphasis on broadband access and affordability for small town and rural and urban communities. We must not allow lack of access to broadband services deny parts of our Ohio communities access to employment, education, healthcare, and other services.

I applaud your contributions to this deal and ask that you stay the course as you work to build support for the bipartisan agreement among your congressional colleagues. We cannot afford to let this deal crumble like the infrastructure around us.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this critical issue.

Rachel Ray, AICP
President, APA Ohio

Emily Phillis
Chair, APA Ohio Legislative
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