



Board of County Commissioners
Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

Memorandum

To: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

Date: April 23, 2021

Subject: Proposed American Jobs Plan

The following document has been prepared by the Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs (OPBA). The information and the attachment were gathered from specified sources and may change as this proposal becomes federal legislation. Additional updates will be provided as required.

The research included below does not explicitly serve as a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners nor does it support or oppose a particular legislative action. Should you have any questions, please contact us at 305-375-5350.

c: Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

American Jobs Plan

On March 31, 2021, President Biden outlined his administration's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan referred to as the American Jobs Plan. The summary is based on readily available information as no legislative text has been filed in the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives.

Further detailed in the graphic included on Attachment 1, the American Jobs Plan includes four expenditure categories – Infrastructure at Home, Transportation Infrastructure, Research and Development and Caretaking Economy. The highlights below include some of the proposed expenditures outlined in the Plan that may be of interest to Miami-Dade County.

Infrastructure at Home (\$650 billion)

- \$213 billion to build and refurbish 2 million homes, including \$40 billion to improve public housing
- \$111 billion to expand access to clean drinking water, includes \$45 billion to replace lead pipes and services lines
- \$25 billion to upgrade childcare facilities

Transportation Infrastructure (\$621 billion)

- \$174 billion in grants to state and local governments for green fleet initiatives including adding half a million electric vehicle charges by 2030
- \$115 billion for highways, bridges and roads
- \$85 billion for transit agencies to modernize and expand their systems
- \$80 billion for Amtrak
 - After the President's announcement, Amtrak released "A Vision to Grow Rail Service Across America" in which they announced the company's 2035 vision. Amtrak's plan includes the extension and expansion of service into 160 more communities including Miami. See Attachment 2 for more information.
- \$42 billion for airports and seaports, including \$25 billion for airport renovations to expand car-free access to airports
- \$20 billion for cyclist and pedestrian safety projects

Caretaking Economy (\$400 billion)

- Includes funds for higher wages and more benefits for caretakers

Research and Development (\$580 billion)

- \$180 billion for climate resilience and climate research and development initiatives

Potential Uses and Applicability to Miami-Dade County

As a local government, Miami-Dade County stands to directly benefit the most from funding included in the 'Infrastructure at Home' and the 'Transportation Infrastructure' sections of the American Jobs Plan. While specifics have not yet been released, the potential uses listed below assume grants or matching funds in one form or another are made available to local government entities. The projects and initiatives listed below are all supported in the County's FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget.

Infrastructure at Home (\$650 billion)

- Funding for initiatives to expand access to clean water may be used to accelerate replacement and expansion projects currently programmed by the Water and Sewer Department (WASD). Additional funding would reduce the cost to WASD ratepayers
- Funding for new construction of homes would facilitate the County's ongoing efforts to promote the availability of affordable and workforce housing
- Additional funding for the County's Weatherization Assistance Program and the HOME program will expand the number of homeowners eligible to receive assistance for weatherproofing, painting, shutters and other home rehabilitation services
- Funding to upgrade childcare facilities would benefit the County's Head Start centers and facilities managed by the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

Transportation Infrastructure (\$621 billion)

- Funding for highways, roads and bridges may be accessed by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces to support ongoing efforts. Funds also to the State may also support projects on state highways and roads across Miami-Dade County
- The Plan includes funding for cyclist and pedestrian safety initiatives to promote the safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists while making various modes of transportation available
- Funds earmarked for the modernization and expansion of transit agencies would support ongoing projects such as the SMART Plan, station refurbishments, the Metromover wayside overhaul project and other large capital initiatives.
- As shown in Attachment 2, Amtrak has proposed a systemwide expansion which may lead to one of more Amtrak routes in Miami-Dade County by 2035
- Grants made available for green fleet initiatives would allow the County to procure additional electric vehicles, where appropriate, and expand efforts to install electric vehicle charging stations in County facilities. The expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure may promote the use of more electric vehicles
- The proposed funding for airports and seaports would expand continue to promote Miami International Airport and PortMiami as the County's two largest economic engines. With robust capital programs in place, additional funding for renovations and expansions may accelerate the implementation of the capital programs

Caretaking Economy (\$400 billion)

- Supported primarily by the Countywide general fund, the Home Care Program conducted by the Community Action and Human Services Department may benefit from additional pay and benefits for Home Care Aides and other personnel if the proposed pay incentives are made available to local governments

Research and Development (\$580 billion)

- The proposed investments in small business and workforce development will promote and support the County's robust economy for residents of all educational and professional backgrounds

Attachment 1

Infrastructure plan covers manufacturing, caretaking

Estimated spending on the proposed American Jobs Plan

Infrastructure at home \$650 billion

Clean drinking water \$111B	
High-speed broadband \$100B	
Electrical infrastructure \$100B	
Affordable and sustainable housing \$213B	Public schools, early-learning centers and community colleges \$137B
Other \$28B	

Research and development \$180B	Manufacturing and small business \$300B
Workforce development \$100B	

Research and development, workforce development and manufacturing \$580 billion

Transportation infrastructure \$621 billion

Highways, bridges and roads \$115B	Public transit \$85B	Passenger and freight rail \$80B
Electric vehicles \$174B		
Airports, water transit and ports \$42B		
Transportation inequities \$45B		
Infrastructure resilience \$50B		
Other \$30B		

Home and community-based care for elderly and disabled people

Caretaking economy \$400 billion

Note: The White House summarized Infrastructure at Home as \$650 billion; however, the proposed spending in this category adds to \$689 billion.

Source: White House

ALYSSA FOWERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Amtrak Connects US: A Vision to Grow Rail Service Across America

New or improved routes to add millions more passengers over 15 years

With a growing and diverse population, a global climate crisis and longer traffic jams, America needs a rail network that offers frequent, reliable, sustainable, and equitable train service. Amtrak has the vision and expertise to deliver it.

Our 2035 Vision

Transformative benefits

- ✓ Safely connects people and communities
- ✓ Lowers carbon emissions
- ✓ Reduces traffic
- ✓ Addresses the climate change crisis
- ✓ Provides equity across cities & regions
- ✓ Creates more jobs

New places

- ✓ Up to 160 more communities
- ✓ Multiple daily trips in 15 more states

Better service

- ✓ Up to 30+ potential new routes
- ✓ Up to 20+ existing routes with more trips

More people

- ✓ 20 million more passengers than the 32 million served in FY 2019

Amtrak's Value Proposition

Amtrak is America's Railroad

- 32 million riders in FY 2019
- 500+ communities served

Efficient operations

- Most financially efficient passenger rail operator in the U.S.
- 90%+ on-time passengers in Northeast
- Best-in-class 84% customer satisfaction

50 years of service to the country

- Created by Congress to provide passenger rail service to the country as other railroads turned to freight only.
- We have rights to access all existing rail lines for passenger trains.

Better rail service means cleaner air, less traffic, and happier people.

- Traveling on Amtrak is up to 83% more energy efficient than driving and up to 73% more energy efficient than flying.
- Improved rail service brings local and regional economic benefits from riders and employees who live, work, and visit in the area.
- In some cities, people spend more than 80 hours a year in traffic – that's equivalent to two weeks of vacation down the drain. Population growth will make this much worse without better alternatives like rail.
- Expanding rail service helps combat inequality in transportation.
- Amtrak can fill the gaps created by airlines and bus carriers that have steadily reduced service in many communities across the country.

Vision would expand or improve rail service for 20 million more riders.

- Population growth and future U.S. transportation needs support the development of corridor routes that could efficiently serve 160 additional diverse communities.
- Amtrak has met with stakeholders across the U.S. – state officials, mayors, businesses, and others – to identify their local needs and expectations. Our vision incorporates this input and we will work in partnership with stakeholders to grow and improve passenger rail.
- Our vision builds upon Amtrak's national network of long-distance trains, integrating new and improved corridors into our existing system.

Today's challenge: America has changed, but our rail network has not.

- Many of the country's biggest and fastest growing metropolitan areas, with diverse populations, don't have the rail service they deserve.
- Major cities like [Houston](#), [Atlanta](#), and [Cincinnati](#) have service that is simply inadequate, with trains that only stop once a day and often in the middle of the night. Other cities like [Las Vegas](#), [Nashville](#), [Columbus](#), and [Phoenix](#) don't have Amtrak service at all!
- Millions of people, including large populations of people of color, do not have access to a reliable, fast, sustainable, and affordable passenger rail option. This is neither fair nor equitable.

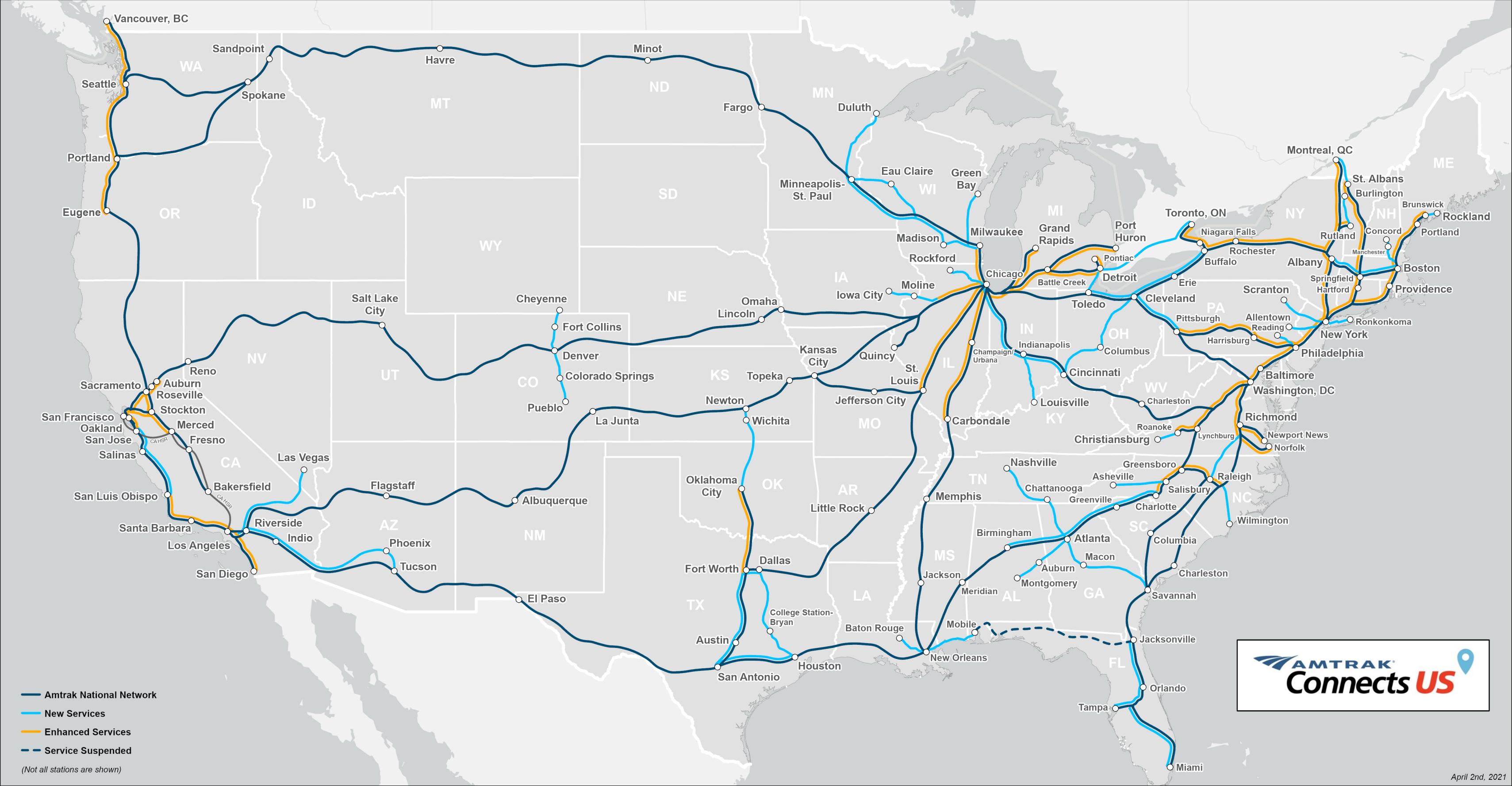
What we need from Congress

Significant government funding is required to support passenger rail around the world, and the U.S. is no different. We need enhanced funding and tools to build and operate these new and improved routes, including:

- ✓ **Funding** – Increased federal funding for Amtrak's National Network Grant to support operating and capital costs for new and improved corridor routes.
- ✓ **Fair Access** – A streamlined and expeditious process for accessing freight rail lines and determining reasonable capacity improvements.
- ✓ **On-Time Trains** – New enforcement tools for Amtrak's existing right to preference over freight trains to ensure our riders arrive on time.

Why Amtrak?

- Congress created Amtrak for this very purpose – to connect America by rail on behalf of the federal government.
- Amtrak has the national capabilities and expertise in place to operate these new routes – *today*.
- Amtrak is the only entity that offers a comprehensive national rail network that connects people across states.
- Amtrak has the right to access all existing rail infrastructure, the most efficient and cost-effective way to expand passenger rail service in shared corridors.



— Amtrak National Network
— New Services
— Enhanced Services
- - Service Suspended

(Not all stations are shown)



Sources

'Amtrak Connects US: A Vision to Grow Rail Service Across America', [*Amtrak*](#)

Armstrong, C., 2021, 'American Jobs Plan Act of 2021: Summary', [*Holland and Knight*](#)

'Fact Sheet: The American Jobs Plan', [*The White House*](#)

Siegel, R., 2021, 'What's in Biden's \$2 trillion jobs and infrastructure plan?', [*The Washington Post*](#)

Stein, J., 2021, 'White House unveils \$2 trillion infrastructure and climate plan, setting up giant battle over size and cost of government', [*The Washington Post*](#)