

Connecticut Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Team



At a Glance

Senior Advisor to the Governor – DRS Commissioner Mark D. Boughton

Deputy Advisor – Stephen J. Nocera

Program Advisor – Tayler H. Thorpe

Established – 2021

Central office – 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1, Hartford, CT 06103

Number of authorized positions – 3

Recurring operating expenses – \$270,000

Organization structure – Senior Advisor, Deputy Advisor, Program Advisor

Mission

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century. The historic law will make life better for millions of Connecticut residents, create economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century.

Our mission is to coordinate and ensure the proper implementation of these historic programs. We strive to not only enhance but to transform Connecticut with these dollars. We seek to maximize Connecticut's funding by working with all levels of Government and partnering in our efforts with multiple State Agencies.

Statutory Responsibility

On November 15th, 2021, the President signed Public Act Law No: 117-58 as known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This bill provides new funding for infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, and major projects; passenger and freight rail; highway and pedestrian safety; public transit; broadband; ports and waterways; airports; water infrastructure; power and grid reliability and resiliency; resiliency, including funding for coastal resiliency, ecosystem restoration, and weatherization; clean school buses and ferries; electric vehicle charging; addressing legacy pollution by cleaning up Brownfield and Superfund sites and reclaiming abandoned mines; and Western Water Infrastructure.

Shortly before signing PA 117-58 into law, President Biden named former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu as Senior Advisor on Infrastructure. In late 2021, Senior Advisor Landrieu called upon all US Governors to appoint an Infrastructure Coordinator for their respective State. As a result of this call to action, on December 16th, 2021, Governor Lamont named Revenue Services Commissioner Mark D. Boughton as Connecticut's Infrastructure Coordinator and established the Connecticut Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Team (CTBILT).

Public Service

The CTBILT Team coordinates the State and Local response to over 380 programs that are within the IIJA. Commissioner Boughton acts as the Lamont administration's senior voice on infrastructure and coordinates the multi-agency approach which administers funds from the IIJA.

Those advising Governor Lamont and Chief of Staff Paul Mounds and working directly with Commissioner Boughton on infrastructure policy and programs include:

- The Office of Policy and Management Secretary
- Department of Administrative Services Commissioner
- Department of Transportation Commissioner
- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner
- Department of Public Health Commissioner
- Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner
- Chief Workforce Officer
- Director of the Governor's Washington DC Office

The CTBILT team and Advisor Boughton have a 3-pronged approach to their IIJA rollout and implementation. This strategy consists of (1) outreach to stakeholders both internally and externally, (2) being the point of entry and contact for all IIJA-related matters on behalf of the administration, and (3) finally enterprise-wide coordination of the IIJA implementation effort including the State's overall strategy for maximizing competitive grant dollars available under the Act.

Improvements and Achievements

In under one year our office has assisted in and helped to coordinate the following efforts:

- Over 100 stakeholder meetings, webinars, discussions, and site visits to provide the public with information regarding what does and doesn't qualify for various programs and processes in order to ensure that Connecticut can move quickly and effectively in the pursuit of competitive funds.
- \$85M to improve safety and reliability along the New Haven and Shore Line East Rail lines.
- \$20M for the improvement of facilities for low to no-emission buses
- \$40M to modernize infrastructure in Waterbury, Stamford, and New Britain.
- \$103M to accelerate the construction of the I-95 West Haven Safety Improvement Project.
- \$20M that will help fund the construction of a \$185 million facility where checked bags will undergo security inspections at Bradley Airport.

Strategic Projects

Our team has adopted a philosophy of proactive outreach and we strive to be an entry point for all inquiries from stakeholders or the general public. Over the next year, we will continue in this vane and look to do more outreach and engagement. Some of the channels we will use to increase communication will be social media, podcasts, blogs, and print media.

One of the gaps that have been identified among our stakeholders is the need for grant support for municipalities, councils of government, and non-profit partners who may need to take advantage of such additional resources. Next year we will prioritize identification of the additional resources and seek to create new resources as funding allows.

Finally, our overarching priority for next year and beyond will be to continue to ensure the State of Connecticut, our Agencies, and strategic partners are well-positioned to take advantage of this historic opportunity to improve, renew, and transform our infrastructure.