



# TIA ON THE HILL

*The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department*



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## **President Biden Highlights Infrastructure in Speech**

On April 28th, President Biden gave his first speech to the joint session of Congress. It was a unique setting as only around 200 individuals were in attendance, which was comprised of Members of Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Cabinet officials, and diplomats.

President Biden mentioned the word infrastructure four times during his speech, which has been a major talking point for him and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. In speaking about the American Jobs Plan, President Biden stated, "It creates jobs to upgrade our transportation infrastructure. Jobs modernizing roads, bridges and highways. Jobs building ports and airports, rail corridors and transit lines. It's clean water."

The issue of infrastructure remains very political, in the follow-up speech from Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), the Senator mentioned that only 6% of the President's plan is actually spent on fixing our nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports and broadband. The rest of the plan is a liberal wish list.

The FAST Act is set to expire on September 30, 2021, and hopefully Congress can come together and put the partisan politics aside and address our nation's crumbling infrastructure projects. Now is the time for action and not more political pettifogging.

## President Biden lays out American Families Act in Joint Session of Congress



President Biden in coordination with the Joint Session of Congress, released an American Families Plan that outlines a further investment in the economy and the American worker. Some of the highlights include:

- Extending tax cuts focused on families of low and medium income levels;
- Four years of free public education (pre-school and community college; and
- More affordable University tuition.

This comes at a time when the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed to over 200 million Americans across the country and States are beginning to re-open. President Biden believes this is the right time to overhaul these government programs that focus on equity and supporting families that are struggling during the pandemic.

President Biden in his release states, "I know that we need to continue to enable those who dropped out of the workforce - particularly the approximately two million women who left due to COVID - to rejoin and stay in the workforce."

TIA continues to empower all individuals in the work force and represents an industry that compensates employees well and often well above the median salary for the region.



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## TIA Holds Successful State Lobbying Day

The past week has been a milestone completed for TIA. Our Government Affairs team wrapped up six meetings with Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, urging them to support two key issues for the Association at the State level. This event will serve as a catalyst for future State lobbying days that TIA looks to hold in future years. This is part of the overall Government Affairs plan of action, to drastically increase the Association's presence at the State and local level.

The New York event was held in conjunction with two other amazing Association partners, the Customized Logistics Delivery Association (CLDA) and the New York State Messenger and Courier Association (NYSMCA). TIA focused on two issues of interest to the Association, which were maintaining the independent contractor model in the State and lowering the minimum driving age from 21-18 with extensive and increased training. TIA Incoming Chairman Mike Riccio, CTB, Chief Marketing Officer for Leonard's Express located in Farmington, New York led most of the meetings for TIA and was an outstanding representative to the industry and TIA.

As mentioned, TIA is excited about this event which will create future events for TIA that look to create an increased advocacy presence throughout the United States and return on value to our members.

## To Authorize or to Not Authorize

The FAST Act is set to expire on September 30, 2021, and Congress is working on coming up with legislative language to reauthorize the funding levels and inject a much needed boost to our nation's infrastructure projects. With the narrow divide in Congress right now, it will be interesting to see how Democrats will be able to move this or will they simply pass another extension. Time will tell, and trust me time is running out!

Of course, no one has a crystal ball to predict what is going to happen, but if I had to guess the House of Representatives will move forward with a authorization bill, that will incorporate several of the President's initiatives dealing with the Green New Deal and other priorities and will send this over to the Senate, where things get a little more complicated. There has been alot of talk about procedural what can the Senate pass under the reconciliation process (see previous volume on what the reconciliation process is.) There are several questions about what provisions could be included under this process and how many times the Senate can use this process in a Congress. Most of those questions are up to the Senate parliamentarian, and their discretion. Will President Biden and Senate Democrats want to use this process (if limited) on a re-authorization package or a larger infrastructure package or a combination of that and the American Families Act (described above.) Quite frankly we do not know, and here is an insider tip, neither do Congressional leaders at this point. My guess is the FAST Act gets another extension into 2022.

Regardless, of what happens TIA will stay extremely active on the Hill on all our major issues and continue to advocate for our issues and industry.

