Economy

What's in the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package

The bipartisan bill includes \$550 billion in new investments in roads, bridges, broadband and more. It is widely expected to create a lot of jobs.

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By Heather Long

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Railroads: \$66 billion. The U.S. passenger rail system, a favorite of Biden's, receives a large chunk of funding for upgrades and maintenance. There is substantial funding earmarked for the Northeast Corridor, the heavily traveled route from Boston to D.C. The bill also has money for freight rail safety and calls for stations that average 40 passengers a day to have a station agent on duty. Some were disappointed that the bill does not specifically call for investment in the kind of high-speed-rail seen in other countries.

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Broadband: \$65 billion. There is a major focus in the bill on expanding broadband in rural areas and low-income communities. This has been a bipartisan priority for years, but the White House estimates that about 30 million Americans still do not have reliable Internet access, which became a major issue for schooling and work during the pandemic. About \$14 billion of the funding would go toward making monthly Internet bills more affordable for low-income Americans.

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Electric-vehicle charging stations: \$7.5 billion. The United States has about 43,000 charging stations. Biden has set a goal of having half of new cars electric by 2030, which will require significantly more charging stations across the nation.

Electric school buses: \$7.5 billion. The bill makes a major push to replace existing school buses with zero-emissions buses. Specific funding is set aside to help lower-income, rural and tribal communities replace their bus fleets.