

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Reacts to Senate Passage of the \$1.2 Trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan

“Today’s passage of the [\\$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure plan](#) by the U.S. Senate represents a giant step forward for the nation. Chief among those benefitting from plan are our communities – the cities and towns along the Mississippi River,” said **Mayor Bob Gallagher of Bettendorf, IA**, Co-Chair of the [Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative \(MRCTI\)](#).

“This legislation includes \$500 million that will fund a revolving loan fund, established last year through passage of the [STORM Act](#). Those funds will be made available to municipalities to mitigate the effects of damage caused by flooding, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. It’s a vital lifeline, invaluable to our communities,” said **Mayor Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge, LA**, Co-Chair of MRCTI.

Mayors along the Mississippi River were further elated to see other critical priorities of the Corridor pass today including \$36.735 billion for the Bridge Investment Program. “With this year’s temporary closure of the Hernando DeSoto Bridge, Memphians saw up close the critical need for a bi-partisan package to repair our aging infrastructure,” said **Mayor Jim Strickland of Memphis, TN**, MRCTI Tennessee State Chair.

Mayors are cautiously hopeful of future opportunities to address the growing backlog of infrastructure improvement, building upon the progress made today. “Our Mayors hope there is opportunity to join this package with future efforts in areas of climate, equity, and direct funds to cities,” said **Colin Wellenkamp, MRCTI Executive Director**.

From moving more freight cleanly and reliably on our waterways to rehabilitating essential natural infrastructure to deploying broadband into our rural areas, the package takes a measured but broad approach to restoring the physical platform of our economy and the environmental services we cities depend on. See full list of featured priorities of the Mayors along the Mississippi River here:

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