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What to Make of the White House Infrastructure Meeting?

And just like that, federal infrastructure policy is back in the news.

Democratic Party leadership were all smiles after a White House meeting yesterday to discuss future infrastructure policy. President Trump appeared to agree to their high-level terms: \$2 trillion in new federal spending that would cover transportation, water, broadband, and energy grid investments. President Trump even pledged the administration would take responsibility—three weeks from now—to present ideas for new funding sources.

But crafting and passing major infrastructure legislation has been challenging for a reason, and there's little reason to believe this time will be different. I see three distinct challenges that could quickly turn optimism into disillusionment.

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The Brookings Institute

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May 1, 2019

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