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The Infrastructure Plan Could Boost N.J.'s Opportunity Zones.

The U.S. Senate this week moved closer to passing President Biden's \$1 trillion infrastructure bill — the biggest investment in America's rails, roads, broadband and electrical grid in decades. New Jersey political leaders hope the landmark legislation will help fund critical state projects like the Gateway Tunnel.

One of the hallmarks of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is channeling investments to under-served communities, including those in New Jersey, positioning them as hubs for next-generation jobs and innovation. The White House aims to "revitalize manufacturing, secure U.S. supply chains, invest in R&D, and train Americans for the jobs of the future." This goal has eluded presidential administrations for much of the 21st century. Yet a convergence of factors makes the next few days a particularly favorable window to make progress — though perhaps not in the way policymakers expected.

One way the Biden administration plans to pay for the infrastructure bill is by nearly doubling the tax rate wealthy Americans pay on profits from their sale of stock. This capital gains hike would have major financial impacts, and observers are debating what it would mean for economic fairness and federal revenue. The increase could also have a surprisingly powerful effect on jobs and business growth in low-income areas by pivoting investors toward Opportunity Zones.

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