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New NLC Report Reveals Cities' Top Infrastructure Priorities: Water, Roads, and Mobility Projects Lead the Way

Washington, D.C. — The National League of Cities (NLC) today released its 2025 Municipal Infrastructure Conditions Report, providing the most up-to-date look at how cities, towns and villages across the country are funding, prioritizing and managing critical infrastructure projects.

Drawing on survey data, the report highlights the infrastructure investments municipalities say are most vital to supporting public health, safety and economic growth.

Key Findings from the Report Include:

Water systems, roads and bridges rank as the top three infrastructure priorities for over 70% of municipalities.

- Cities are facing rising project costs, labor shortages and regulatory hurdles — but are finding innovative ways to keep projects moving forward.
- Municipalities are leveraging a mix of grants, municipal bonds and federal programs like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to modernize aging systems.
- Nearly 88% of cities say infrastructure investments are essential for economic development, job creation and equitable community growth.

"Local leaders are on the frontlines of keeping water systems safe, roads and bridges functional and communities connected," said Clarence E. Anthony CEO & Executive Director of the National League of Cities. "The Municipal Infrastructure Report shows how cities, towns and villages of all sizes are innovating in the face of rising costs and complex permitting processes to deliver the infrastructure residents depend on for a thriving community."

The report also underscores how infrastructure investments are linked to broader community goals — from affordable housing development to climate resilience and economic inclusion.

Access the full report and learn more.

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The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Stay connected with NLC on Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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