On August 1, following months of negotiations, a bipartisan group of senators finalized text to the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. The bill would provide $1.2 trillion over 8 years for infrastructure improvements, including $550 billion in new spending. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) offered the measure as a substitute amendment to the legislative vehicle H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act.

Below is a summary of provisions of interest to APLU institutions.

I. **BROADBAND FUNDING AND POLICY**

As anticipated, the bipartisan infrastructure agreement would provide $65 billion in new broadband investments. This funding includes a state grant program to facilitate broadband deployment; dedicated funding for middle mile broadband infrastructure; two digital equity and inclusion grant programs championed by Senator Patty Murray in the Digital Equity Act; and additional funds for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program, now renamed the Affordable Connectivity Fund.

Institutions of higher education are eligible for grant funding through these programs (apart from the Affordable Connectivity Fund), but the bill does not provide dedicated broadband funding for higher education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION F – BROADBAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title I - Broadband Grants for States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Territories</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sec. 60102. Grants for Broadband Deployment (pg. 2015) | The bill would create a $40 billion formula grant program for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Territories to fund “to bridge the digital divide” through broadband deployments to un- and underserved areas. The bill calls for $100 million to be allocated to each of the 50 states, with an additional $100 million set to be divided equally among U.S. territories.

Non-profits, public-private partnerships, private companies, utilities, local governments, and anchor institutions such as institutions of higher education will all be eligible for funding. |

| **Title III – Digital Equity Act** |
| Sec. 60304. State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (pg. 2098) | The bill would create an annual $125 million formula grant program for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and |
Puerto Rico to fund the creation and implementation of comprehensive digital equity plans in each State.

The bill would also provide $60 million for grants to States to develop their digital equity plans.

The bill would create an annual $60 million competitive grant program to support digital inclusion projects undertaken by individual groups, coalitions, and/or communities of interest.

The bill would create an annual $125 million competitive grant program to support digital inclusion projects undertaken by individual groups, coalitions, and/or communities of interest.

The bill would create an annual $500 million competitive grant program to fund the construction, improvement, or acquisition of technology-neutral middle mile infrastructure. Middle mile infrastructure is defined as broadband infrastructure which “does not connect directly to an end-user location” and can include leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral exchange facilities, undersea cables, and transport connectivity to data centers.

The bill would provide an additional $14.2 billion for the “Affordable Connectivity Fund,” a renamed version of the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

The bill would lower the monthly subsidy rate to $30 from the current $50 subsidy rate but would also include $100 for devices.

II. ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS OF INTEREST

There are a few additional provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure package that may be of interest to institutions of higher education, particularly in terms of transportation and energy research.

The bill would provide $95 million to support the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program, which advances the state-of-the-art in transportation research and technology.
### DIVISION D – ENERGY
**Title V – Energy Efficiency and Building Infrastructure**

| Sec. 40512. Building, training, and assessment centers (pg. 1689) | This section would provide grants to institutions of higher education to establish building training and assessment centers to educate and train building technicians and engineers on implementing modern building technologies. This section authorizes $10,000,000 for FY22. |
| Sec. 40521. Future of industry program and industrial research and assessment centers. (pg. 1696) | This section would provide funding for institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers to identify opportunities for optimizing energy efficiency and environmental performance at manufacturing and other industrial facilities. This section also establishes a grant program to fund upgrades for small- and medium-sized manufacturers that have been recommended in an assessment from an Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) or Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnership (CHP TAP). This section authorizes $550,000,000 for the period of FY22-26. |

### DIVISION G – OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

| Sec. 70501. Pilot program on use of agricultural commodities in construction and consumer products. (pg. 2237) | This section would provide funding for a bioproduct pilot program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to partner with at least one university affiliated bioproduct research facility to study the relative benefits of using materials derived from agricultural commodities in the production of construction and consumer products. The benefits to be studied include waste management cost and greenhouse gas emission reductions and other environmental benefits. This section authorizes $2,000,000 for FY22-23. |

### DIVISION D—ENERGY
**TITLE VIII—NATURAL RESOURCES-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT, AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

| SEC. 40803. Wildfire risk reduction. (pg. 1797) | Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026--$20,000,000 shall be available for activities conducted under the Joint Fire Science Program, of which—
- (A) $10,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior; and
- (B) $10,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture; |

### DIVISION J - APPROPRIATIONS
**TITLE II—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES**
That of the funds made available under this heading in this Act, the following amounts shall be for the following purposes in equal amounts for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, including for:

- (2) $491,000,000 shall be for contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to provide funding and technical assistance for purposes of restoring marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystem habitat, or constructing or protecting ecological features that protect coastal communities from flooding or coastal storms;
- (8) $50,000,000 shall be for marine debris prevention and removal through the National Sea Grant 15 College Program (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.)