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Report Cards Are Out: American Infrastructure Gets D+

[AUDIT, CONSTRUCTION](#)

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The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recently released their [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#). Every four years, the ASCE grades the nation's infrastructure within sixteen major categories on an A - F scale. Many factors determine the grade a particular category of infrastructure receives, including Capacity, Condition, Funding, Future Need, Operation and Maintenance, Public Safety, Resilience, and Innovation.

Overall, America's cumulative infrastructure grade in 2017 was D+. Low-scoring areas include Aviation (D), Roads (D), and Public Transit (D-), among many others. [Explore other categories.](#)

- The report notes that Aviation is hampered by airport and control system infrastructure, which is causing congestion to grow. It notes that this area faces a \$42 billion funding gap over the next ten years and that "24 of the top 30 major airports may soon experience 'Thanksgiving-peak traffic volume' at least one day every week."
- Roads are noted to be overcrowded, underfunded, and often in poor condition. With a growing backlog of repair work, "traffic delays cost the country \$160 billion in wasted time and fuel in 2014."
- Public Transit faces increasing demand despite a \$90 billion rehabilitation backlog. The report notes that many Americans have inadequate access to public transit. As we reported last July, there is currently [research and development underway to address America's future travel needs](#). While these large scale projects are important to develop long-term solutions, it is important that small scale solutions also be implemented to assist with today's immediate needs.

At the local level, one such smaller-scale project is the bus rapid transit project between Downtown and Oakland to streamline travel between these two neighborhoods. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* [reported in February](#) that while it is not certain that federal funding will be secured, "it is a high priority project and it will proceed." If funding can be secured for such projects, it will present opportunities to local construction firms specializing in a range of industries, and improving our nation's infrastructure grades certainly is a long road ahead.

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