



Monthly briefing

May 2021

Strategic Council/Component monthly briefing:

To better inform members of the work and activities of the AIA Strategic Council

Ohio Valley Region & Housing and Community Development Knowledge Committee

Your current Regional Councilors should be contacted about any potential opportunities or concerns facing the future of the profession. Their contact info is below:

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Moderator and Vice Moderator Message

Our work this year selected Areas of Study (AOS) which are extensions and expansions of last year's work.

- We created Areas of Impact (AOIs), for the first time, with the goal of breaking down silos between topics. AOIs align with the AIA's strategic goals (climate action and equitable communities) and are forward thinking and intended to be potential system disruptors.
- Council is actively collaborating with many Knowledge Communities along with organizations outside of the AIA in our critical thinking and research.

2021 AREAS OF STUDY

Rural + Suburban Agenda –

We established our "Guiding Principles" and have been dedicated to getting workshops scheduled involving member focus groups to identify resources and areas of need.

Abstract (WHY): DESIGN a Rural + Suburban agenda identifying resources for our members and communities within which they practice!

Mental Health –

We established our Guiding Principle statement and identified or this group as if there were "no holds barred".

Abstract: We will build a bridge between existing mental health expertise and the architecture profession.

Technology Impacting Practice (TIP) -

Abstract: To expand TIP's 2020 Summit Call to Action to a Resolution in New Ways of Practice, Delivery & Monetization.

The Challenge: We cannot rest in our quest for evolution and transformation. It is essential if we are to remain relevant in our profession.

Housing & Infrastructure –

Abstract: Create AIA pathways to support architects' reach to champion *equitable housing and communities*.

The Challenge: Demand for affordable and equitable housing is rising at a faster rate than the design and construction industry can currently meet.

2021 VISIBILITY NETWORK CALLS

The Board Continues to share information with the region via the Visibility Network calls. Tim Hawk has been sharing the updates. On May 12, he introduced Nate Hudson from Nevada who talked about CCADE (pronounced cicada, like the insect)- Committee on Climate and Design Excellence Initiative by the board. The goal is to further initiatives on net zero carbon emissions, equitable, resilient and healthy communities in reference to the Framework for Design Excellence. Goals are: 1- Develop Content 2- Be external to other groups inside and outside of AIA 3- Create Partnerships with other organizations.

Also, Tim shared information regarding the Government Advocacy Committee and the brief on "Include Buildings in Federal Infrastructure Investment". I have attached those for your reference.

OTHER UPDATES:

- A'21 Conference: Registration is Now Open Register Here!
<https://conferenceonarchitecture.com/>
- Robert Ivy, FAIA, EVP/Chief Executive Officer, Announces Retirement "After 10 years as EVP / Chief Executive Officer of the American Institute of Architects, I am announcing today that I will be retiring from my position at the end of the year. It has been a pleasure to work with you these past years as we position AIA and the profession for even greater endeavours. Our current initiatives to take meaningful climate action, and to address racial and ethnic equity within the profession and the built environment are our most important and ambitious yet." -Robert Ivy, FAIA

Website: Visit the [AIA Strategic Council](#) for more details.

Mission

The Strategic Council advances the architecture profession by informing the Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. Although it is not an AIA governing body, the Council's work is vital to AIA's ability to serve the profession. The Council approaches its tasks with an emphasis on an outward and forward-focused vision.

Issue brief

The American Institute of Architects

Include buildings in federal infrastructure investment

THE PROBLEM

The nation's public building stock needs significant investment to meet 21st century demands.

THE ASK

AIA urges Congress to include funding for buildings in any federal infrastructure package.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Building infrastructure investment must be included in any infrastructure legislation. Horizontal infrastructure (including roads, bridges, and waterways) and building infrastructure (including schools, hospitals, civic centers, and affordable housing) are two sides of the same coin. Both are critically important to our nation's economy and both are in need of significant investment.

The American public and the federal government have long recognized the important role that buildings play in our nation's infrastructure:

Public Opinion:

- 82% of Americans agree that public buildings are as important as transportation in defining community infrastructureⁱ
- 91% of all voters consider stable affordable housing "highly important" to people's security and well-beingⁱⁱ
- 75% of Gallup Poll respondents agree that the federal government should spend more to improve infrastructure, including buildingsⁱⁱⁱ
- 70% of Americans agree that public schools should be considered part of America's infrastructure^{iv}

Federal Government:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes buildings as a component of critical infrastructure^v
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) includes schools and hospitals as U.S. infrastructure^{vi}
- The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) includes a variety of buildings within the Government Facilities Sector that are considered a Critical Infrastructure Sector^{vii}

The Solution:

Congress should ensure that any comprehensive federal infrastructure package includes at least \$300 billion for building infrastructure. To best leverage this investment for decades to come, Congress must promote energy-efficient and resilient building practices. Specifically, Congress should incentivize building code adoption at the state and local level for new construction projects, and encourage the adoption of stretch codes like the IECC 2021 ZERO Code Renewable Energy Appendix. Doing so will lower energy bills for taxpayers and the government alike and produce well-paying jobs for many Americans.



Issue brief

The American Institute of Architects

Citations:

ⁱ American Institute of Architecture (AIA), “Build America Summit Report,” <https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2016-11/Build%20America%20Summit%20Public%20Opinion%20Poll%20Results.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Opportunity Starts at Home, “A Call to Action on Housing Amid COVID-19,” <https://www.opportunityhome.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/E-12915-Housing-Affordability-002.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Frank Newport, Gallup News, “Americans Say ‘Yes’ to Spending More on VA, Infrastructure,” <https://news.gallup.com/poll/190136/americans-say-yes-spending-infrastructure.aspx>

^{iv} Morning Consult and Politico, National Tracking Poll 210449, <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000178-cfbd-d112-a97e-ffbde6ef0000>

^v Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “Critical Infrastructure,” <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/critical-infrastructure>

^{vi} Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Strategic Foresight Initiative, “Critical Infrastructure,” https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/programs/oppa/critical_infrastructure_paper.pdf

^{vii} Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Critical Infrastructure Sectors, “Government Facilities Sector,” <https://www.cisa.gov/government-facilities-sector>



May 6, 2021

Government Advocacy Committee

2021 GAC Members

Mike Davis, FAIA—Chair
Emily Roush-Elliot, AIA
Southern Ellis, AIA
Jill Gotthelf, AIA
Bert Gregory, FAIA
Timothy Hawk, FAIA, AIA Board
Anica Landreneau, Associate AIA

Amber Lombardo
Paula Loomis, FAIA
Brian Minnich, AIA
Gail Napell, AIA
Greg Yager, FAIA
The Honorable Shirley
Franklin—Ex Officio/AIA
Board

Antitrust Statement

It is the policy and practice of the American Institute of Architects to comply fully with all applicable laws, including the antitrust laws of the United States. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws.

Supplemental Materials:

- Buildings Are Infrastructure one-pager

I. Federal Policy Update

A. Design Excellence Program

- Recap meeting with GSA
- Two-part Appropriations strategy
- Authorizing language to protect Design Excellence Program
- Continued outreach to WH DPC

B. Infrastructure

- Meetings with Congressional committees ongoing
- One-pager on Buildings Are Infrastructure attached

- Action Alert to support inclusion of buildings
- Endorsed bipartisan [American Infrastructure Bonds Act](#)
- Endorsed [Main Street Tax Certainty Act](#) (Sec 199A)
- Hospitals:
 - [HHS announcement](#) to distribute \$1 billion for construction and renovation of community health centers
- Schools:
 - Follow up on Healthy, Efficient Schools Initiative
- Housing:
 - Biden Administration [reinstating AFFH and HUD's previous "Discriminatory Effect"](#) standard, no opportunity for public comment, yet
 - Endorsed reintroduced bipartisan [Build More Housing Near Transit](#)
 - Empowering Homeowners Energy Efficiency Act coming soon
 - Made contact with HUD on a meeting
- Civic buildings:
 - Endorsed the [Federal Building Clean Jobs Act](#)

C. Resilience

- Resilience Building Coalition, May 20
- Josh Sawislak, GSA, guest speaker
- SHELTER Act reintroduction coming soon, circulating sign-on letter

D. Supplemental Appropriations for Capitol Security

- Roundtable postponed due to violence at Capitol

E. Other new legislation/ sign-on letters of note

- Sen. Wyden leading [energy efficiency tax bill overhaul](#), including important changes to 179D
- Endorsed reintroduced [Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act](#)
- Endorsed reintroduced [Energy Efficient Qualified Improvement Property Act](#)
- Retirement Parity for Student Loans Act reintroduction coming soon
- HPBC sign-on letter calling for resilient infrastructure
- ASE letter calling for increased ENERGY Star appropriations