

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
Field Hearing: Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation,  
Maritime, Freight, and Ports  
July 23, 2024**

Three years ago, I was proud to join members of this committee to help lead a coalition of Democrats and Republicans to pass a historic new investment in our nation's infrastructure.

Since then, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – has begun to make a difference in communities across the country. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law didn't just give us the chance to fix our roads and bridges. It has expanded access to high-speed internet, upgraded railroads and airports, delivered clean water to countless families, and made critical progress in the fight for a clean energy economy.

Those investments have already made an impact here in Michigan. So far, this legislation has funded more than 500 individual projects in our state. I've seen the benefits firsthand and heard from constituents who are grateful for these resources.

Our airports – from Detroit, to Lansing, to the UP – have received funding to improve and expand their service. Our communities are building the electric vehicle charging stations that will power the future of clean transportation. Across our state, increased access to high-speed internet is providing Michiganders with new opportunities for education, health care, and innovation. And these investments have created thousands of good-paying, union jobs in Michigan.

Today, we will focus on the investments in our surface transportation, maritime, port, and freight infrastructure, and the impact they have had across our state.

In Bay City, the Lafayette Avenue Bridge is getting replaced after almost 85 years. No more piecemeal repairs. Instead, the Bay City community is getting a brand-new bridge that will bolster the local economy.

In Detroit, MDOT is building a Mobility and Innovation Corridor to drive innovation in transit and vehicle technologies. The city has received historic investments to make roads safer. New trails for pedestrians are being built as part of the Joe Louis Greenway. And the I-375 freeway is getting replaced with a boulevard at street level.

In Detroit, Menominee, Monroe and at the Soo Locks, key Great Lakes ports have begun to receive the support they need to shore up our supply chain, boost local economies, and strengthen our maritime infrastructure.

In Kalamazoo, Pontiac, Sault Ste. Marie, and Jackson, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's RAISE Grant program has kickstarted new projects that will improve pedestrian safety and access, transform downtowns, and reconstruct critical roads.

Right here in Lansing, resources are going to I-496 and US-127, which will improve commutes and connectivity to the rest of the state.

These are just a few of the projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that we will examine at this morning's hearing, and more are breaking ground every day. These projects aren't just building new infrastructure. They are improving public health, economic development, the future of clean energy, and so much more. We're just beginning to see the full effect of this legislation.

That's why our work is far from over. The next step is to understand the details of how this law has been implemented. We need to hear directly from local stakeholders – the people on the ground, seeing these projects up close. This won't just allow us to better utilize the resources of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It will also lay the groundwork for future legislation and help us understand where we're still falling short.

Perhaps most important, Michigan is exactly the right place to examine these questions.

Our state has rural, urban, and suburban areas that each face their own challenges in meeting Michiganders' infrastructure needs. As a hub of domestic manufacturing, our state's industries serve millions of individual customers and play a critical role in protecting our national interests. The strategic supply chains that run through Michigan rely on road, rail, and maritime infrastructure to deliver every day. And as a Great Lakes state with an international border, our maritime infrastructure is among the most critical in North America for trade and commerce. There is no state more fitting than ours to hold the Senate Commerce Committee's first hearing on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

This morning, our panel of expert witnesses will share essential insights into this legislation. They'll help us understand how it must be implemented to meet infrastructure needs in Michigan and across the country. I thank them for being here today and look forward to a productive conversation.