

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE STUDIES ON INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) has begun to study the link between infrastructure investment and job creation, in order to assess the number of jobs created by different types of investments.

The following pair of EPI papers may be of interest to Laborers and their signatory contractors:

- “Tools for Assessing the Labor Market Impacts of Infrastructure Investment” explains the authors’ methodology for estimating the amount and types of jobs created by infrastructure investment.
- “Transportation Investments and the Labor Market” employs this methodology to transportation investments.

Both papers make some points that may be useful to raise in efforts to increase federal and state infrastructure spending:

- The authors estimate that every \$1 billion worth of infrastructure spending generates \$1.6 billion worth of additional economic growth.
- Of all types of infrastructure projects, investments in repair and maintenance projects are among the best and fastest generators of jobs.
- All infrastructure investment tends to create good-paying jobs that skew towards non-college-educated workers, and is therefore likely to help reverse the growing pay gap between those with college educations and those without.
- Jobs created by infrastructure investment are more likely than jobs created by other types of investments to be union jobs. Increased infrastructure investment will therefore help to increase the number of unionized workers in the workforce.