

**Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure: Member Day
Congressman Bradley S. Schneider**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify. I hope to bring to your attention the infrastructure and transportation priorities of my district as you consider relevant legislation.

The U.S. is the wealthiest country in the world, but we rank only 13th on the quality of our infrastructure. The need for significant federal investment in infrastructure is undeniable. This is something we can all agree on - regardless of party lines, regardless if you come from an urban area or a rural area.

In the 10th District of Illinois, infrastructure means more than roads and bridges. It means adequate stormwater management and flood mitigation systems. It means affordable and accessible public transit. And it means that any investment in infrastructure – existing or new – must prioritize climate resiliency and transitioning to a green economy.

Climate change poses an existential threat to our way of life, and we are already seeing its impact in our own communities. Data shows that precipitation in my district is increasing, which my constituents have experienced firsthand in the form of severe flooding. During the past four years, the Des Plaines River trail in Lake County was flooded 50% of the time. Investing in our infrastructure now will pay dividends down the road, especially as climate change continues to test our existing infrastructure. FEMA estimates that for every dollar invested in flood mitigation, there are four dollars of public benefits. As the committee looks at prospective infrastructure legislation, I urge you to consider the impacts of climate change and building climate resiliency into our infrastructure investments, including flood mitigation.

We must also continue robust support for public transit. My district is a neighbor to Chicago, which has the second largest public transportation system in the U.S. During the pandemic, ridership on suburban Chicagoland's Metra commuter trains fell 90% and ridership on the city's CTA trains fell 80%. Thanks to funding from the CARES act, Chicago was the only major city that was able to continue providing normal service on trains and buses. But as people begin to go back to work and we return to somewhat normal life, our public transportation systems must be equipped to handle the demand. I encourage the Committee to significantly invest in accessible and affordable public transportation.

Finally, I encourage the Committee to prioritize bipartisanship as it considers upcoming infrastructure legislation. Decades of underinvestment in infrastructure has hurt every state and every community in the country. As we begin to recover from the pandemic, we can build our communities back better than they were before only if we work together on both sides of the aisle.

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of my district. I yield back.

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<https://www.wbez.org/stories/chicago-area-transit-agencies-face-drastring-service-cuts-as-pandemic-ridership-plummets/eee8850e-73af-4443-be32-c3f996169117>