

Georgia Municipal Association

2018 Top Federal Priorities



Infrastructure Investment

GMA urges Congress to support federal funding for infrastructure investment. Georgia cities will need more than [\\$11.2 billion](#) over the next five years for water and sewer, transportation, public safety, and other capital programs. GMA supports a federal infrastructure package that increases funding available to local governments and includes local governments in decision making on all infrastructure improvements that impact their communities. The federal-state-local partnership is critical to the ability of cities to complete vital infrastructure improvements that create jobs and maximize taxpayer dollars.

Farm Bill Reauthorization

USDA Rural Development and Rural Utilities Services programs such as the Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, Community Facilities, Community Economic Development, Rural Business Grants and Loans, and Rural Housing funds provide access to resources rural communities need to meet a wide range of infrastructure, technical assistance, and economic development priorities. GMA urges Congress to pass a bipartisan Farm Bill that reauthorizes these existing programs or creates new programs that focus on the needs of rural cities, including infrastructure systems for transportation, water and wastewater, broadband; strengthening local and regional economic development initiatives to promote jobs and economic growth; and resources and technical assistance to local small businesses to help them succeed.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

Georgia's cities report over \$4 billion in water and sewer capital infrastructure needs over the next five years. GMA urges Congress to continue its support of WRDA authorized programs for local water infrastructure projects that improve our state's drinking water, wastewater infrastructure, and stormwater management, such as include [WIFIA](#), [Clean Water](#) and [Drinking Water](#) state revolving loan funds, integrated planning, and workforce development for the water utility sector.

FAA Reauthorization

Georgia's 104 general aviation and air carrier airports have a significant economic impact statewide as well as in the communities they serve. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) estimates that Georgia's commercial and general aviation airports generate more than \$62.6 billion annually in economic impact. GMA supports continued AIP grant funding for all public use airports that supports long term sustainability for Georgia's general aviation and air carrier airports.

Broadband/ Telecommunications

GMA opposes any legislation that weakens the authority of Georgia's municipalities to regulate the use of their public rights-of-way and which weakens their authority to locally determine appropriate compensation for such use. GMA supports a balanced approach to telecommunications policy that allows new technologies to flourish while preserving traditional local regulatory authority.

For questions contact Becky Taylor, Director of GMA Federal Relations at btaylor@gmanet.com or (678) 686-6276.
