

HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN *for* PROGRESS

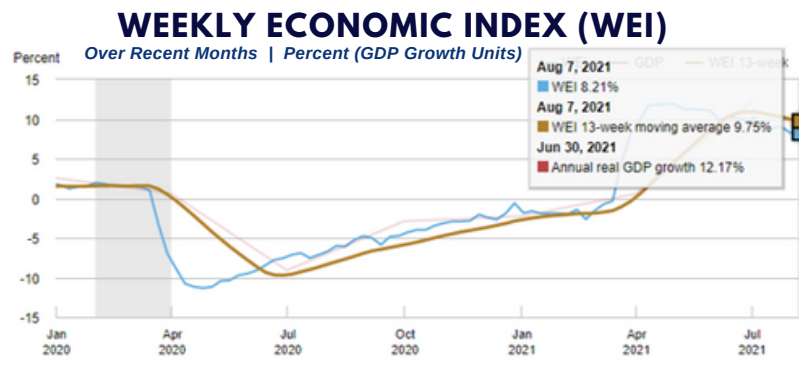
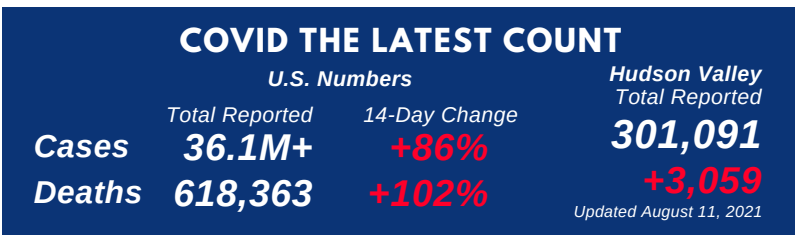
The PULSE of the ECONOMY

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Infrastructure Bill.

There was a reason why, then Vice-President, Joe Biden likened the condition of New York's LaGuardia airport to a third world country. It became one of the symbols for the nation's crumbling infrastructure. The details of the Senate bill below are impressive but we feel like this is the Peanuts cartoon and Lucy is tormenting Charlie Brown. Every time you think the infrastructure bill is done, the answer is "not really". So yes, the Senate with bipartisan support passed an impressive infrastructure bill with \$550 billion in new spending. And if wishing it so was enough, this truly was a big deal. But now the baton goes to the House and things get really dicey. The plan is that the other kind of infrastructure bill, - the human kind - which is the bigger bill at \$3.5 Billion must be connected or it appears that the House progressives will not vote for the "physical" infrastructure bill. The only way that will happen is if what the Senate calls a reconciliation bill is first passed for the human infrastructure bill in the Senate. That will most likely happen with a 50-50 vote with the Vice President breaking the tie. You got all that? Does Lucy do it again? Or does Charlie Brown finally win the day.

Stay tuned.



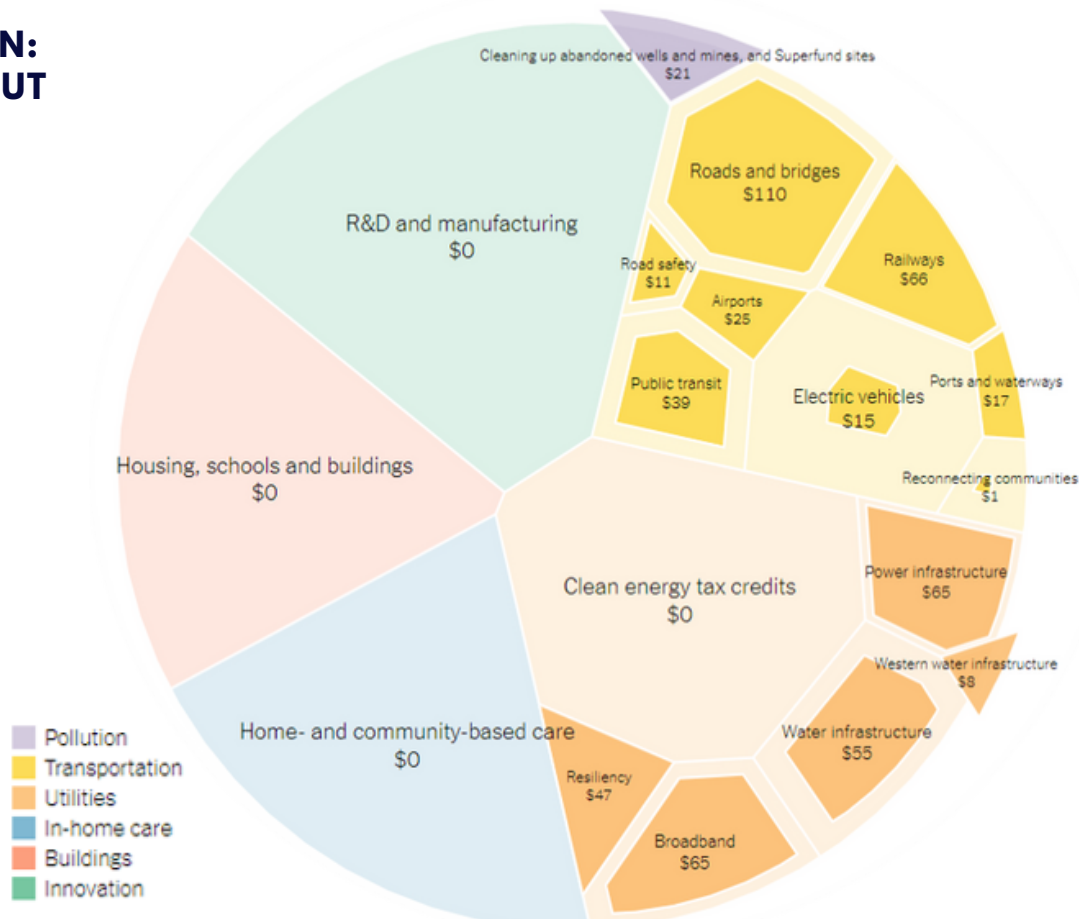
The WEI is an index of ten daily and weekly indicators of real economic activity scaled to align with the four-quarter GDP growth rate.
 Source: Authors calculations based on data from Haver Analytics, Redbook Research, Rasmussen Reports, The American Association Railroads and Booth Financial Consulting

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN: WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT

The Senate's infrastructure bill is undeniably large: It calls for new federal spending of about \$550 billion (as part of a \$1 trillion bill that also renews existing transportation spending). The new spending is roughly equivalent to the cost of the Interstate Highway System, after adjusting for inflation.

Overall, the bipartisan plan focuses spending on transportation, utilities and pollution cleanup; pulls back spending on clean energy and electric vehicle adoption; and eliminates spending on innovation, buildings and in-home care.

Proponents of the bipartisan plan say it focuses on "core infrastructure," while critics point out that it leaves out major components that would address climate change, health care and racial inequity.



Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/28/upshot/infrastructure-breakdown.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>