Public Involvement

Public Participation Plan: Seneca Nation

A PPP is a document that determines the appropriate level that the public should be involved in the development of a project and how the public should be engaged. This plan is a tool to help gauge public interest in an effort to progress projects in an effective and meaningful way.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Staff, Elected Officials, AND Public

- Know the Project Goals

- Appropriately Engaged

General Information

Primary Project Information

- Project Name / #
- Anticipated Start and Completion Date
- Lead Agency
- Partnering Agency
- Primary Consultant
- Primary and Secondary Contact

Step 1: Project Description

Provide a clear project description to lay the foundation for a successful and achievable public participation process within the timeline, geographic area, staff and budget limitations of the overall project. This information will be used to explain the project to those persons subsequently engaged in public participation activities of the Plan. This will also help communicate the boundaries of public participation in planning, program development or decision processes.

Step 2: Assess Level of Public Concern

- Assess the degree to which the public considers the issue significant. The public will become involved according to its perception of the seriousness of the issue. To assess public interest, complete the public assessment worksheet.
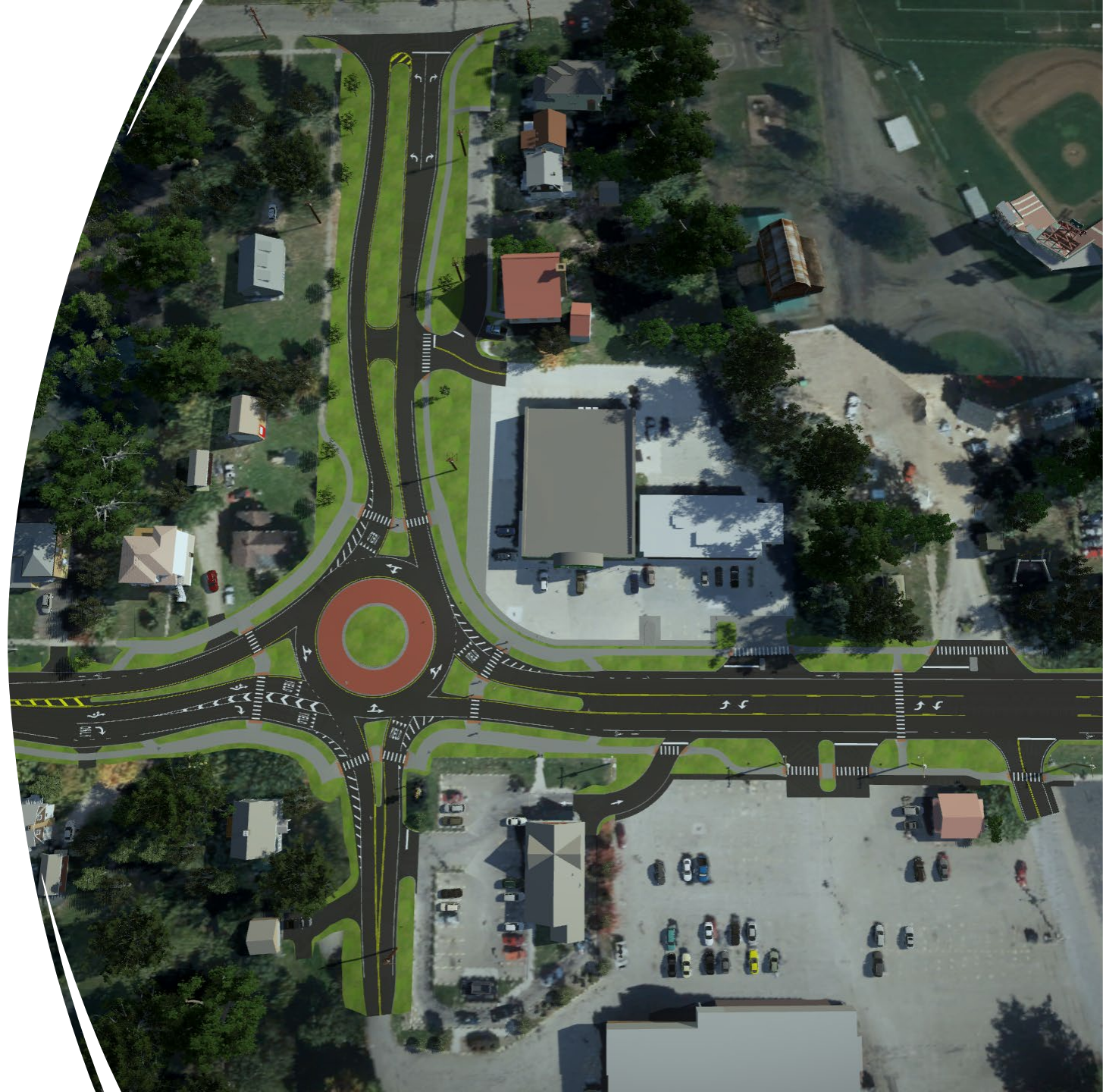
Assessment Table

Assessment Questions	Very Low Level 1	Low Level 2	Moderate Level 3	High Level 4	Very High Level 5
1. What is the anticipated level of conflict, concern controversy, or opportunity on this or related issues?					
2. How significant are the potential impacts to the public?					
3. How much is being invested in the project? (No cost, 1-50k, 50k-several hundred k, <					
4. What degree of involvement does the public appear to desire?					
5. What is the potential for public impact on the potential decision or project?					
6. How significant are the possible benefits of involving the public?					
7. How serious are the potential ramifications of NOT involving the public?					
8. What level of public participation does SNI Council and Executives desire or expect?					
9. What is the possibility that the media will become interested?					
10. Is there a new route, facility, building, or significant change in surrounding area?					
Count number of checks in each column	0	0	0	0	0
Multiply number of checks by level number	0	0	0	0	0
Total of all 5 columns	0				
Divide by 10 to calculate the desired level of Public Participation	0				

**Round .5 and above to the next level*

Step 3: Determine Level of Public Involvement

After assessing the level of public interest or concern using the public assessment worksheet, determine the level of public involvement necessary. The Public Participation Spectrum illustrates the 5 levels of public participation:

Increasing Level of Public Participation

(1) No Action	(2) Inform	(3) Solicit Input	(4) Involve	(5) Collaborate

Step 4: Determine Effected Areas

- After determining the appropriate level of public participation for the project, the next step is to determine where public meetings will take place and where notices should be posted.

Allegany Territory - Water Infrastructure

Seneca Nation Geographic Information Services
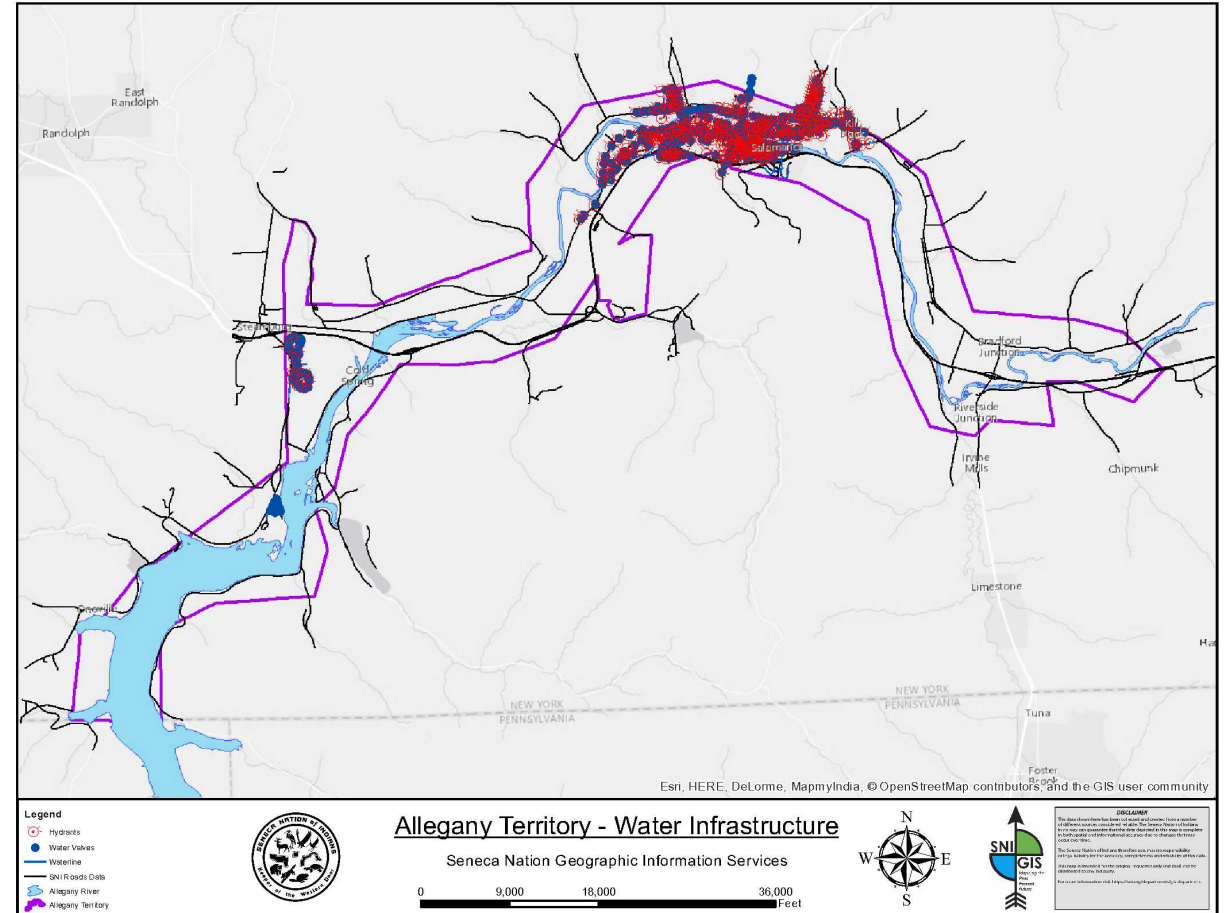
Step 5: Identify Stakeholders

Who Should we Notify?

- Departments
- Elected Officials
- State(s)
- Federal Government
- Public Interest Groups
- Municipalities
- Key Demographics

Step 6: Select Tools/Activities to Reach the Public and Receive Input

Who Should be Involved?

Tools/activities:

- **Level 1**
  - No Action

- **Level 2**
  - SNI News Paper Post
  - SNI Webpage Post
  - Local Newspaper Post (50 mile Radius)

- **Level 3**
  - Online Public Notice (Contract Reporter, ext.)
  - Public Meeting
  - Agency Meeting

- **Level 4**
  - Public Survey **(Include ESRI crowdsourcing when plausible)**
  - Internal Survey
  - Provide Draft Copies (Administration Buildings, Community Centers, Website)

- **Level 5**
  - Public Workshop
 - Public Meeting +1
  - Public Hearing

- **Additional Options**
  - Necessary Board or Committee Vote?
  - Radio Broadcast
  - Social Media

Crowdsource Map

• The Seneca Nation has a great resource, the GIS Division. Utilizing GIS, we can create crowdsource mapping through ESRI.

• An interactive map is provided within a digital public survey. Community members can drop points with corresponding comments on the map to show key areas of concern.
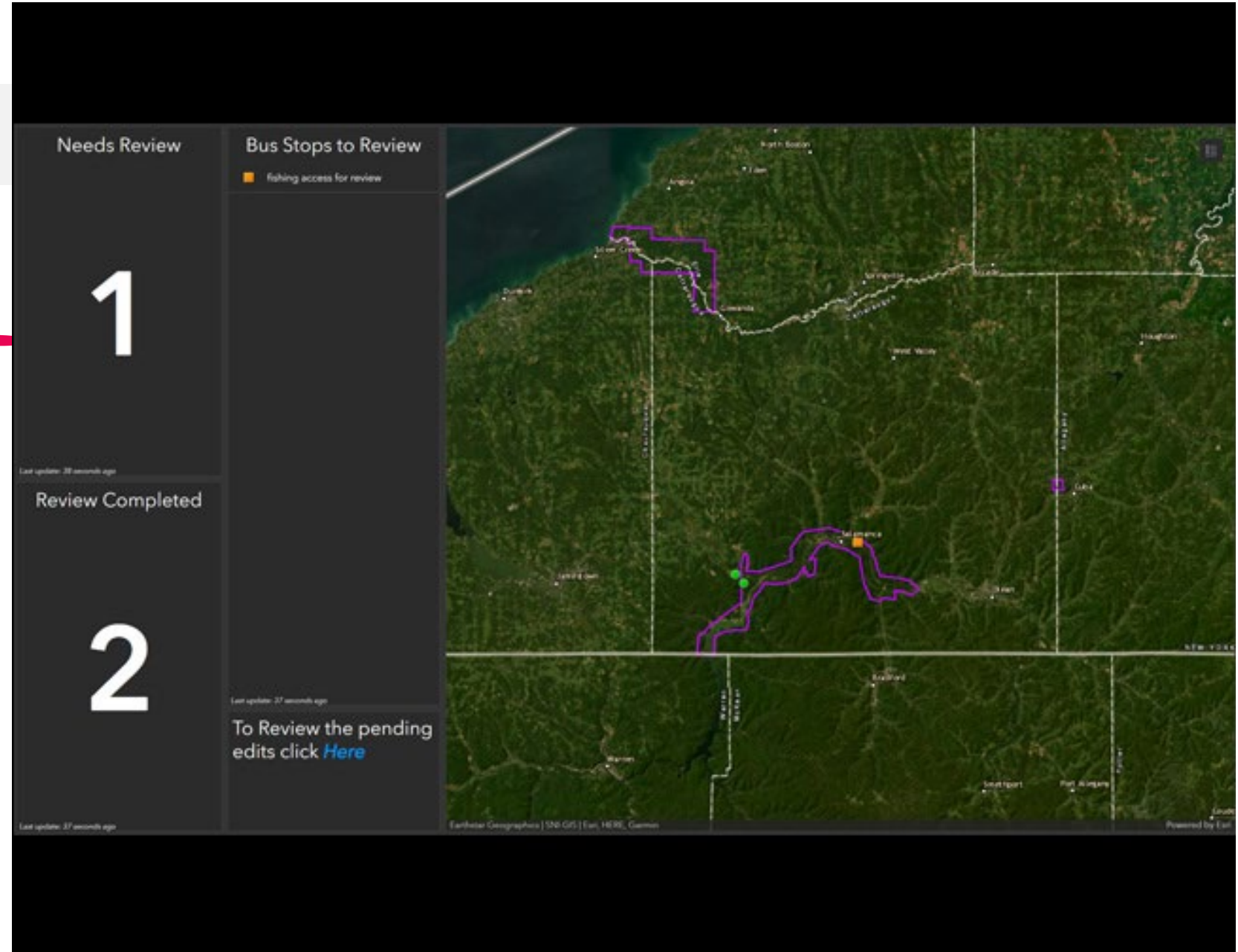
Step 7: Prepare a Rough Project Schedule

After determining your tools/events to be utilized for public involvement, copy each outlet and provide any key dates, and times, and/or range of dates

Section 6 Tool to be utilized	Description and Date
Level: _____	

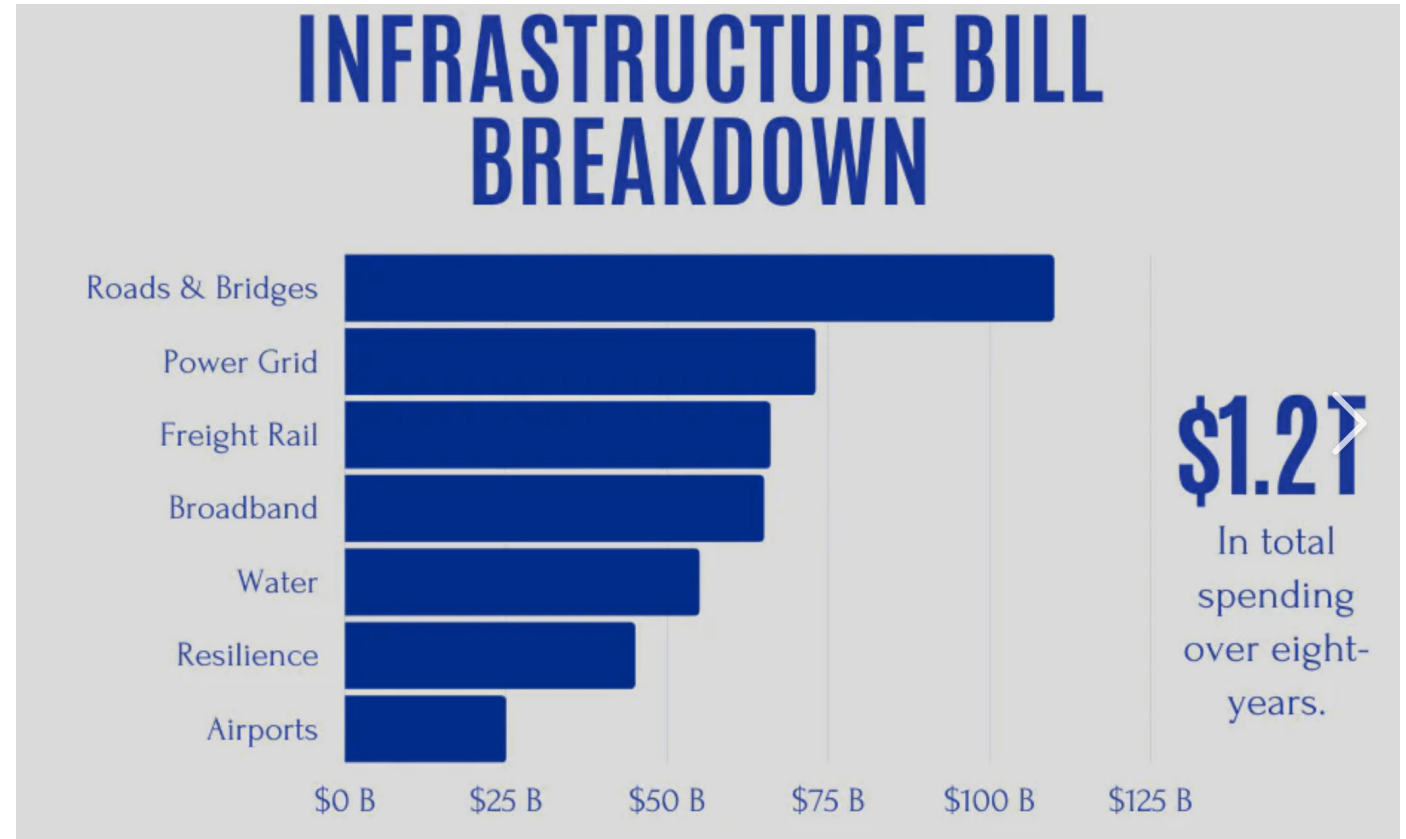# Step 8: Identify Roles and Responsibilities

Who is Involved?

1. Identify public participation manager responsible for tracking progress and completion

2. Identify name/title of everyone who has a role and/or responsibility in the planning and development.

3. Identify who your "ultimate decision makers" are regarding the project.

Step 9: Funding Source

I. Identify funding source:
   a. General Fund
   b. Grant
   c. Other: (Identify)
   d. Mixed: *(Identify all that apply)*

I. Determine funding source public input policy and requirements
   a. Does the SN PPP overrule source requirements?
- For example, FHWA recognizes tribal self-governance and allows tribal governments to set/follow their own policies while the FTA has policies and clauses of their own that must also be followed.

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BREAKDOWN

Roads & Bridges
Power Grid
Freight Rail
Broadband
Water
Resilience
Airports

$0 B $25 B $50 B $75 B $100 B $125 B

$1.2T
In total spending over eight-years.

Step 10: Gather and Disseminate Input and Results

- Identify how input from the public will be tracked, recorded, and implemented into the overall project?

Step 11: Evaluate Effectiveness

1. Record all responses into a public input database for the project
2. Determine number of public participants/ responses
3. Record input that affected project
4. Record input that did not affect the overall project – Include Explanation
5. What public input tool produced the most results and why?

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Thank you!

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