



# CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

# 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

## ECONOMY

**Rio de Flag Flood Control Project** - Utilizing the \$52 million in secured funding, support expedited award and completion of the project while working with the Army Corps, BNSF Railway and the Arizona Dept. of Transportation to ultimately remove more than half of the City's residents, as well as the downtown and NAU areas, from the flood plain and protect more than \$1 billion in property assets.

**COVID-19 Relief** – Support additional relief efforts, including continued pandemic unemployment insurance, mortgage relief, eviction moratoriums, small business loans/grants, increased funding for testing, education and broadband and direct payments to cities and counties to address declining revenues.

**Rural Broadband** – Support federal efforts to increase rural broadband access and capacity to encourage and develop economic activity, including allowing for remote education, business attraction, revenue creation, and the attraction of remote workers.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

**Flagstaff Airport** – Advocate for funding for projects included in the Flagstaff Airport five-year Capital Improvement Program that will enable recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Surface Transportation Reauthorization** – Advocate for a new, robust surface transportation reauthorization before it expires on September 30, 2021 that reflects Flagstaff's needs and values, with special regard to roads, highways, bridges, transit, and climate change.

**Infrastructure Funding** – Pursue federal funding (BUILD, INFRA, and/or FLAP) for a high-priority infrastructure project in the City of Flagstaff. Potential projects could include the Milton corridor and overpass, the Lone Tree overpass traffic interchange, or the J.W. Powell connection.

**Amtrak** – Promote funding and infrastructure renewal for long-distance passenger train services as a generator of economic development for municipalities located in the I-40 corridor. Promote the restoration of daily service for the Southwest Chief through Flagstaff.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

**Affordable Housing** – Promote additional funding of Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Community Development Block Grant program.

**Immigration Reform** – Advocate for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and other federal immigration policies that help keep families together while supporting their higher education goals.

**Veterans** - Support legislation and funding that improves the lives of all veterans and their families.

**Gun Violence** – Support legislation that ensures the protection of all people from gun violence.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Grand Canyon and Colorado Plateau Protection** - Support Chairman Grijalva's legislation preventing uranium mining in areas surrounding Grand Canyon National Park and strengthen the laws, regulations and policies that govern uranium mining to ensure protection for public health and safety; support efforts to reinstitute the 20-year uranium mining moratorium for the nearly 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon. Protect the wilderness, wildlife and cultural resources throughout the Southwest region.

**Uranium Transport Standards** – Urge the Arizona Dept. of Transportation and/or the US Dept. of Transportation to strengthen uranium transport standards to reduce the possibility of contamination.

**Forest Health** – Leverage City voter approved Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) funding with federal dollars to maximize investments in community and watershed protection and forest health; \$8.5 million is required to complete FWPP. Additionally, ensure that resources and funding continue to flow quickly and efficiently to important regional projects such as the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI), the Fire Learning Network (FLN) and collaborative Prescribed Fire efforts that support the development of a technically skilled workforce.

**Carbon Fee & Dividend Legislation** – Urge the federal government to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation in support of climate change mitigation.

**Environmental Funding and Partnership** – Support federal funding and partnership opportunities to expand open space, parks, natural areas, trails and “dark skies” initiatives across Northern Arizona.