

# Biden signs \$1T infrastructure bill into law

By Andrea Shalal and Steve Holland  
Reuters

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden signed into law a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill at a White House ceremony on Monday that drew Democrats and Republicans who pushed the legislation through a deeply divided U.S. Congress.

The measure is designed to create jobs across the country by dispersing billions of dollars to state and local governments to fix crumbling bridges and roads and by expanding broadband internet access to millions of Americans.

The bill-signing ceremony, held in chilly weather on the White House South Lawn to accommodate a big crowd, was an increasingly rare moment when members of both parties were willing to stand together and celebrate a bipartisan achievement.

Biden, whose job approval ratings have dropped because of his handling of the economy and other issues, heard supportive chants of "Joe, Joe,



**'GETTING THINGS DONE':** President Joe Biden signs the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Monday. Jonathan Ernst/Reuters

Joe" from some in the crowd and got a standing ovation as he stepped to the microphone.

Biden said the bill's passage showed that "despite the cynics, Democrats and Republicans can come together and deliver results." He called the bill a "blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America."

"Too often in Washington, the reason we don't get things done is because we insist on getting everything we want. With this law, we focused on getting things done," Biden said.

Speakers included Sen. Kyrsten

Sinema, the centrist Arizona Democrat whose opposition to some tax increases has forced a scaling back of a companion piece of legislation, Biden's \$1.75 trillion "Build Back Better" social safety net plan.

Sinema and fellow Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who also attended, have angered some in their party for resisting a number of items sought by progressives in the social spending bill. Sinema appeared to refer to the criticism in her remarks.

"Delivering this legislation for the American people - this is what it

looks like when elected leaders set aside differences, shut out the noise and focus on delivering results on the issues that matter most to everyday Americans," she said.

Republicans attending included Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

Some Republicans who drew fire from their party's right wing for backing the legislation stayed away.

Biden signed an executive order before the ceremony directing that materials made in the United States be given priority in infrastructure projects, the White House said.

It also established a task force made up of top Cabinet officials to guide implementation of the legislation, co-chaired by former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

The bill had become a partisan lightning rod, with Republicans complaining that Democrats who control the House of Representatives delayed its passage to ensure party support for Biden's \$1.75 trillion social policy and climate change legislation, which Republicans reject.

## US journalist freed in Myanmar, says he was not beaten or starved

DOHA (Reuters) - American journalist Danny Fenster said he was healthy and happy to be going home after he was freed from prison in Myanmar and flew to Qatar on Monday, following negotiations between former U.S.

diplomat Bill Richardson and the ruling military junta.

Fenster, 37, the managing editor of independent online magazine Frontier Myanmar, looked frail three days after he was sentenced to 11 years in prison for incitement and violations of laws on immigration and unlawful assembly. He had been detained since May.

He told reporters on the tarmac at Hamad International Airport in Doha

that he felt well and had not been beaten or starved while in captivity.

"I feel great and am really happy to be on my way home. I'm incredibly happy for everything Bill has done," Fenster, wearing a red woolen hat, loose-fitting trousers and a white COVID-19 mask, said after flying to Doha with Richardson by jet.

"You just go a little stir crazy and the longer it drags on the more worried you are that it's just never going to end. That was the biggest concern, staying sane through that."

Asked if he was mistreated, he said: "I was arrested and held in captivity for no reason, so I suppose so. But phys-

ically, I was healthy. I wasn't starved or beaten."

Myanmar's military-owned Myawaddy TV said Fenster had been granted an amnesty following requests from Richardson and two Japanese representatives "to maintain the friendship between the countries and to emphasize humanitarian grounds."

Fenster was among dozens of media workers detained in Myanmar since a Feb. 1 coup that led to an outpouring of public anger over the military's abrupt end to a decade of tentative steps toward democracy. Myanmar's military has accused many media outlets of incitement and spreading false information.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
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### EMS Commission & EMS for Children Advisory Committee Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)  
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**Meeting Agenda:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Call to order</li> <li>II. Confirmation of Publication</li> <li>III. Roll call</li> <li>IV. Approval of agenda/minutes</li> <li>V. HPLO website</li> <li>VI. Administrator's Report</li> <li>VII. Legal Counsel Report</li> <li>VIII. Committee Reports</li> <li>IX. Old Business                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Agency Reports (USNH, GMHA, GCC, GDOE, DPHSS, DPW, EMSC, EMD)</li> <li>(b) paramedic protocols, EMS lifesaving award, EMT of the year, Policies and Protocol booklet, Paramedic Program Update</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X. New Business                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) EMS Conference</li> <li>(b) Interim Field Training Protocols</li> <li>(c) Interim Authorization to practice as a paramedic</li> <li>(d) Recertifications</li> </ul> </li> <li>XI. Miscellaneous</li> <li>XII. Announcements</li> <li>XIII. Adjournment</li> </ul>
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