

Ellevate LA 2021 Policy Statements

Our State's Infrastructure

Ellevate Louisiana recognizes the urgent need for investment dollars into transportation infrastructure to support economic development, safety and quality of life in our State. Finding the funding for this important priority has proven to be tricky, not only in Louisiana, but also around the country. It is the position of Ellevate Louisiana that the funding for this investment should be from a dedicated financial structure that can continually supply adequate funding from a stable source.

From recent Congressional appropriation provided by the American Rescue Plan, the state will soon receive substantial one-time federal funding. Ellevate Louisiana advocates that the state uses this federal funding source in supporting numerous infrastructure projects throughout the state. Additionally, these statewide projects should be awarded to Louisiana-based businesses whenever possible so that these construction dollars stay within the state and revitalize our economy.

Statewide Broadband

Ellevate Louisiana recognizes the need for statewide broadband infrastructure across our State. The COVID -19 pandemic served to highlight this urgent need. Our educational systems, healthcare systems, business groups, and families were suddenly unable to meet in person. The best option for connecting instantaneously shifted to online. Unfortunately, we quickly found that our broadband infrastructure was insufficient for many of the state's children to continue their education after COVID-19 ended in-person schooling. Parallel problems were exposed related to many of our citizen's ability to access telemedicine, to continue working from home, and to stay connected to other groups that they needed to maintain. Ellevate Louisiana believes that Louisiana needs to be mobile-ready from this point forward.

In response to the deep need that was highlighted by COVID-19, the State of Louisiana has implemented the Broadband for Everyone Commission and opened a new Office of Broadband and Development. As the Office begins meeting with stakeholders to assess needs on the local level, Ellevate Louisiana is supportive of their effort to find the most cost-effective ways to develop and implement a comprehensive plan that provides access to fast, affordable broadband across Louisiana using the most current technology available.