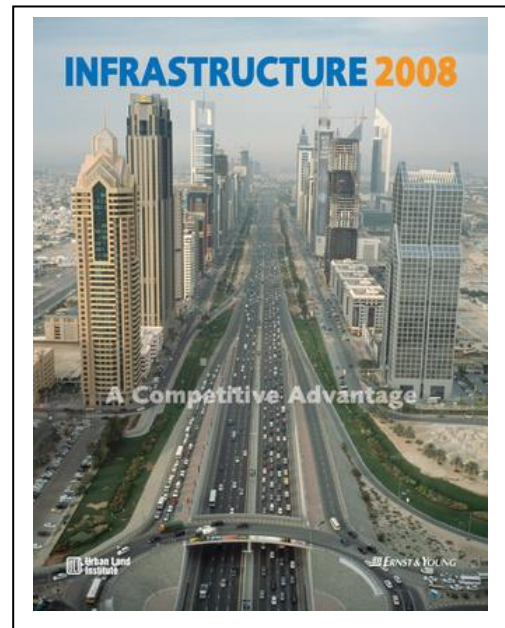


From the Planners' Bookshelf...

ULI's INFRASTRUCTURE 2008.

"A reference that examines trends in transportation and road networks in the United States and abroad, this resource details how to finance their construction and maintenance with both public and private funds, the effect of these investments on the existing environment, innovative ways countries across the globe have built these systems, and infrastructure's essential role in building sustainable communities around the world."



CT.org TAKE-AWAYS:

The 2008 ULI document, excellent as always, offers an action agenda that could be written today, 13 years later. The pending *Infrastructure Bill* before the Congress in mid-2021 may at last provide the funds and the direction to make the improvements that have been so long in coming.

The question for small cities and towns is how to take advantage of the program to improve roads, bridges, water/sewer/drainage systems and broadband internet services in and around their jurisdictions. As is true in most cases, cooperation and collaboration are the keys to good results.

Small cities and towns banding together with their county colleagues can provide regional approaches that lead directly to local improvement projects.

1. Prepare specific plans and documents for local projects that meet federal or state spending priorities...**get ready now.**
2. Bring some money to the table; even a small local contribution, cash, land or otherwise, moves the funding priority needle.
3. Work with local professionals in regional agencies, MPOs, state government departments and counties who know how to work the federal systems to get in the proper line to receive funding for local ready-to-go projects.
4. Be part of a bigger idea rather than a go-it-alone free-lancer.