

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/29/16**Contact: Emily Hanhart
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Infrastructure Projects**

WASHINGTON – Aii's Executive Director, Shane Skelton published an article in this month's *Public Sector Digest* magazine highlighting a new and unique method to funding the nation's crumbling infrastructure.

The article, "Tackling the Infrastructure Deficit: Using Private Dollars for Public Projects," follows the passing of the comprehensive \$305 billion five-year transportation funding bill known as the FAST Act at the end of last year. As exemplified by the D+ grade for infrastructure quality assigned by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the U.S. is in dire need of a solution to help rebuild the nation's surface transportation infrastructure

In the article, Skelton sheds light on a pilot program known as the EB-5 Investor Visa program, which could be used as a means for funding crucial infrastructure projects in the U.S. The program was created to draw overseas investors to the U.S. by offering a conditional permanent residency to international citizens and their families. These families must agree to invest either \$500,000 in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA), or \$1 million in a non-TEA, and employ at least ten U.S. citizens.

Over a four-year period, the EB-5 program brought in over \$7 billion and created 120,000 domestic jobs between 2010 and 2014.

The article reads, "At a time when lawmakers are debating mechanisms to fund domestic infrastructure while simultaneously managing a huge budget deficit, the EB-5 investor program may be a very effective solution that creates jobs, all at no cost to American citizens."

The Alliance for Innovation and Infrastructure (Aii) consists of two non-profit organizations, The National Infrastructure Safety Foundation (NISF) a 501(c)(4), and the Public Institute for Facility Safety (PIFS) a 501(c)(3). The Foundation and the Institute focus on non-partisan policy issues and are governed by separate volunteer boards working in conjunction with the Alliance's own volunteer Advisory Council.

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