



Expanding America's Capacity to Build



When America tries to build infrastructure, policymakers often focus on *what* to build instead of *how* it will get built. This can lead to aspirational infrastructure projects that take too long, cost too much, underdeliver on performance, or are never built at all. We need an American capacity agenda that focuses not just on *what* we build but on *how* we build so we can deliver on the goals of infrastructure policy.

Americans deserve abundant housing, efficient transportation systems, and next-generation energy to power a thriving economy of the future. But we will only achieve this if government is an effective partner. That means eliminating unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy, adopting new technologies and using them well, and attracting skilled people into government and holding them accountable. We need an American governing capacity agenda that accomplishes not just the *what*, but the *how*.

AV supports bold, evidence-based policy solutions that expand America's governing capacity to build infrastructure.

Reduce Procedural Bloat

Aggressively removing burdensome red tape, streamlining outdated permitting processes, and reforming court procedures to eliminate costly delays that stall or block essential projects.

Invest in Modern Digital Technology

We need advanced technology — and effective use of that technology — to make it faster and less expensive to make decisions, buy materials, and work together in building new infrastructure projects.

Close the Loop on Results

We need government agencies relentlessly focused on outcomes — not just compliance. Agencies should shift to adopt goals focused on tangible results and measurable impact for Americans.

Reform the Civil Service

American governments at all levels should be able to efficiently hire skilled employees, strategically position them where their talent is needed most, empower them through effective training, retain top performers, and consistently hold them accountable for measurable results.

[Arnold Ventures](#) is a philanthropy that supports research to understand the root causes of America's most persistent and pressing problems, as well as evidence-based solutions to address them. By focusing on systemic change, AV is working to improve the lives of American families, strengthen their communities, and promote their economic opportunity. Since Laura and John Arnold launched their foundation in 2008, the philanthropy has expanded, and Arnold Ventures' focus areas include education, criminal justice, health, infrastructure, and public finance, advocating for bipartisan policy reforms that will lead to lasting, scalable change. The Arnolds became signatories of the Giving Pledge in 2010.