

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson is praising new potential investments in infrastructure coming from President Joe Biden's trillion-dollar funding package. Hutchinson spoke to members of the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation during their annual meeting today (Mon). Hutchinson said the amendment to the state's constitution known as Issue 1, which was passed by voters last year, also gives the state a leg up when it comes to infrastructure spending.

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"...investment in infrastructure."

Voters approved a new half-cent sales tax that provides roughly \$300-million-dollars each year for transportation needs in the state, including over \$200 million that goes directly to the state's highways. Hutchinson said that amendment is so important to the state that lawmakers who spoke out against it should face backlash at the ballot box.

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"...that's important."

Critics of Issue 1 had argued in favor of a tax on fuel or other materials used by trucks and other heavy users of the state's roads instead of a sales tax. Lawmakers in Washington have said a vote on Biden's infrastructure plan could come as soon as tomorrow (Tues).

Gov. Asa Hutchinson is hailing a new half-cent sales tax approved by voters last year as vital to the state's transportation infrastructure. Hutchinson spoke at a meeting of the nonprofit Arkansas Good Roads Foundation today (Mon). He said Issue 1, passed by Arkansas voters last year, has given the state an advantage in recruiting new industry amid supply chain woes.

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"...many other states."

Hutchinson cited the recent \$400-million-dollar investment by outdoor equipment manufacturer Trex at the Little Rock Port as evidence of Issue 1's success in recruiting new businesses to the state. The governor also voiced his support for President Joe Biden's trillion-dollar infrastructure package.

News04

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"...in the future."

Hutchinson said he is "not wild" about Biden's \$1-and-three-quarter trillion dollar social spending package, but said that the infrastructure bill should be voted on as soon as possible. Congressional Democrats have said they hope to bring both packages up for a vote as soon as tomorrow (Tues).