

NIAC Pre-Deliberative

Potential Study Topics for Discussion at the 16 December 2022 NIAC Quarterly Business Meeting

Purpose

This document outlines potential future study topics for the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC).

Short-term Study Topic

The confluence of significant changes in the threat environment, increasing reliance on new technologies, and major infrastructure investments present an opportunity to develop consensus recommendations regarding several urgent, cross-cutting infrastructure policy challenges. For report-out at the March 2023 Quarterly Business Meeting, the NIAC will assess and develop recommendations regarding:

- What are the NIAC's views on voluntary versus mandatory standards for addressing the risks associated with major cross-sector threats (e.g., cyber and physical attacks, natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, etc).
- What role should private sector owner/operators have in reducing the potential negative impacts of interdependencies between infrastructure sectors and what can be done to facilitate improved collaboration?
- What are the primary barriers to cross-sector collaboration (e.g., planning, regulation, data, standards, risk-equivalency, intelligence, etc) with respect to resilience and security and how can government and the private sector work together to break down the siloes?

Longer-Term Study Topics

Water security is a growing concern. Climate change, population trends, and water management practices are accelerating stressors over large portions of the country, most notably the Colorado River Basin.

- What challenges do we anticipate in the future given the existing water availability framework and what actions can the U.S. take to minimize future local / regional / interstate / transnational conflicts?
 - In what ways are infrastructure sectors most dependent on a stable water supply and how should the government prioritize efforts to address potential future shortages?

Additionally, recent legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act are accelerating

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and expanding investments in electrified and digitized infrastructure across multiple sectors.

- What are the anticipated risks of increased electrification and what actions can be taken to mitigate these risks?