



Infrastructure: The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce supports policies that increase our region’s competitiveness and quality of life through the modernization and maintenance of infrastructure including transportation, water and sewer systems, the energy grid, and broadband.

- State & Federal
 - o Support appropriations for infrastructure projects in Western North Carolina.

Western North Carolina is a competitive region for business recruitment and a desirable place to live. In the next 25 years, the region is expected to grow by nearly 150,000 people. As a growing area, investment in necessary infrastructure improvements is critical. This includes transportation, water and sewer systems, the energy grid, broadband infrastructure, and facilities that will protect and expand our region’s ability to thrive.

Western North Carolina industry and residents depend on clean and plentiful water. The natural resources and treatment centers that ensure clean water can easily be strained by a growing population, storm runoff, flooding, and other weather conditions. The Asheville Area Chamber encourages the creation of a plan to prepare the region’s water and sewer systems for population growth. This should include state funding for water, sewer projects, French Broad River water quality, and stormwater mitigation projects.

Both the energy grid and broadband infrastructure are vital to support nearly all aspects of a city, region, and state’s functionality. As workforce and education shift toward remote work and learning, it is crucial that the infrastructure is reliable, efficient, and affordable. Asheville Area Chamber supports the development of future-minded energy and broadband solutions that will ensure full support for our state’s infrastructure. To develop and implement these solutions, the Chamber urges the state to invest in broadband grant funding and simplification of the broadband grant process.