

INFRA MANIFESTO

(text only)

Unique collaboration innovative replacement and renovation infrastructure

A large part of our infrastructure is in need of replacement or renovation. More than twenty-five parties, brought together by the Bouwagenda, are joining forces for an innovative approach to this task.

Quote: "To keep the Netherlands safe and accessible, to ensure reliable, sustainable infrastructure, we must now join forces. We will continue to seek each other out in order to accelerate and innovate. We will continue to motivate each other and, if necessary, address each other. And we cordially invite other parties to join our initiative".

The infrastructure of the Netherlands consists of hundreds of thousands of structures: bridges, culverts, locks, dams, pumping stations, quays, tunnels and barriers. Much of the infrastructure built last century will need to be renovated or replaced in the next 25 years. And new demands on the infrastructure and the influence of climate change must be taken into account.

So the task we face is enormous. The currently available budget for sustainable and circular replacement and renovation will not prove sufficient in the coming years. To ensure the accessibility, reliability and safety of our roads and bridges, we will need to make progress on residual life prediction and life extension.

This will require innovation and scaling up. We want to put our shoulders to the wheel on this together. We want to innovate on monitoring so that we can optimize the prioritization of replacement and renovation. And on methods to make our infrastructure sustainable and circular, to adapt to new forms of mobility, and to anticipate the consequences of climate change.

The challenge of innovation is huge and requires a programmatic approach over several years. Governments, businesses and knowledge institutions are joining forces. We advocate a joint approach and call for investment in fundamental and applied research, implementation and upscaling of the innovations to make the renovation task possible. We do this in collaboration with the BTIC and the Bouwcampus. In the coming months we will develop a joint Infra Action Agenda. To continue to provide the Netherlands with the best and most sustainable infrastructure. At the lowest cost to society, with the least possible disruption and with the greatest return for society.

