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Contact: pressoffice@dot.gov

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$75.3 Million in Funding for Four Projects in Arizona to Modernize Transportation and Make it More Affordable, Increase Safety and Strengthen Supply Chains

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law more than doubles the funding for popular RAISE Program this year

Today, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded \$75.3 million to support four projects in Arizona from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to help move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable. This year's total allocations nationwide include more than \$2.2 billion thanks to the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides an additional \$7.5 billion over five years for the program to help meet the strong demand to help projects get moving across the country.

"We are proud to support so many outstanding infrastructure projects in communities large and small, modernizing America's transportation systems to make them safer, more affordable, more accessible, and more sustainable," **said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.** "Using funds from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this year we are supporting more projects than ever before."

Projects were evaluated on several criteria, including safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity, partnership and collaboration, innovation, state of good repair, and mobility and community connectivity. Within these areas, the Department considered how projects will improve accessibility for all travelers, bolster supply chain efficiency, and support racial equity and economic growth – especially in historically disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty.

In Arizona, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Southern Navajo County Regional Multimodal Planning Study** – The Navajo County will receive \$261,000 for this planning project to fund Navajo County’s regional multimodal study to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure on the 16-mile segment of SR 260 between US 60 and SR 73 and the surrounding neighborhoods. The project will identify areas for improvement, determine adequate safety measures, and prepare pre-construction documents. It will also conduct community outreach, form a technical advisory committee, and develop a comprehensive plan. The study seeks to better understand the transportation needs of cyclists and pedestrians to improve safety in this underserved and disadvantaged community. Extensive public outreach to the community, including school students and officials, adjacent cities, the county, Santa Clara VTA, Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC), among others, has been completed and will continue through surveys, phone interviews and focus group meetings.
- **Rio Reimagined: 3rd Street Rio Salado Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge** – The City of Phoenix will receive \$25 million to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Rio Salado River along the 3rd Street alignment and add low-emitting solar pedestrian-scale lighting and pathway amenities between Central Avenue and 40th Street. The bridge will connect the underserved South Phoenix community to transportation, housing, education and employment opportunities. According to the application, currently in the project area, residents without cars have no option but walk and bike on high-speed/high-volume roads. This project also increases access to the development area of the Arizona Fresh Del Rio and the future South Central LRT station.
- **22nd Street Revitalization Project** – The City of Tucson will receive \$25 million to improve approximately 0.85 miles of 22nd Street from Kino Parkway to Tucson Boulevard. The project replaces an existing 1960s-era bridge in poor condition with a new bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and State Route 210, expands 22nd Street from four lanes to six lanes with a divided median, and constructs a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The new bridge will remove a freight bottleneck and eliminate weight restrictions and lengthy detour routes for freight, transit, school buses, and emergency medical services. It will eliminate the need for a transit user to travel west and north in order to go directly east; saving up to 30 minutes per trip. This will also speed up the movement of goods and could ultimately reduce shipping costs. The project provides an East-West connection between downtown Tucson and an underserved community. Broadband conduit will also be installed as part of the project for future expansion to reach the underserved community. Additionally, by providing more vertical clearance for the Class I railroad, the project will eliminate a bottleneck for freight movement and allow for future rail expansion at this rail hub.
- **Mohave Road Reconstruction** – Colorado Indian River Tribes will receive \$25 million to reconstruct Mohave Road from State Route 95 south to Agnes Wilson Road for a length of approximately 10.50 miles, including asphalt pavement and shoulders, intersection turn lane improvements, streetlighting, and signage. This project has important connections to State Route 95, Interstate 10, and US 95. The project would correct safety deficiencies that have led to injury or fatal crashes at two of the six most dangerous intersections on Mohave Road. Within the 10.5-mile project limits over a three-year period from 2017-2019, there were 74 total crashes, 29 injury crashes and 44 property damage crashes. This project will improve the main road used by school buses,

mail delivery, emergency services, and goods movement, and will improve access to social services, especially health care. This project is also innovative because it will support the planned deployment of broadband along the corridor, to reach this rural and historically disadvantaged community.

Today, Secretary Buttigieg is in Tucson and Phoenix where he is visiting two of the projects receiving RAISE awards. Later this month the Secretary and other senior USDOT officials will fan out across the country to visit additional sites that are receiving RAISE awards to highlight the ways that the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping invest in communities and get important infrastructure projects moving in communities large and small.

The full list of awards can be found [here](#).

Additional background:

- 2022 RAISE grants are for planning and capital investments that support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, or intermodal transportation.
- 50% of funding is designated for projects in rural areas, and 50% of the funding is designated for projects in urban areas.
- Nearly two-thirds of projects are located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities.
- The largest grant award is \$25 million. Per statute, no more than \$341.25 million could be awarded to a single state in this round of funding.
- Among this year's selected projects, 11 included a local hire provision.
- Several projects include workforce development aspects including four projects that have project labor agreements, eight projects that have registered apprenticeship programs and an additional eight projects with other workforce development provisions.

The RAISE program is one of several ways communities can secure funding for projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's competitive grant programs. Later this year, the Biden-Harris Administration will announce recipients of the first-ever National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program, as well as the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

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