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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$45.9 Million in Funding for Three Projects in Colorado 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 \$45.9 million to support three projects in Colorado 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 Colorado, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **The Westward Three Project** – The Colorado Department of Transportation will receive \$24.2 million to construct three new mobility hubs in Grand Junction, Rifle, and Glenwood Springs. The Grand Junction component includes bicycle, pedestrian, and parking improvements in addition to I-70 Business Loop Complete Streets improvements. The Glenwood Springs component redevelops the current park-n-ride into a transit center where I-70 and SH82 intersect, and also creates a grade-separated bicycle and pedestrian underpass at 27th St. and SH82. The Rifle component expands and relocates the Rifle Park-n-Ride which is currently exceeding capacity. The project will increase the accessibility, condition, and service provided by the region's bus system. The project's development around Glenwood Springs will allow immediate extension of existing BRT service to farther areas of Glenwood Springs, including Glenwood Springs' Main Street, RFTA's major 27th St. BRT Station, and other nearby destinations. The development around Grand Junction will allow pedestrian crossing of a railroad that currently divides neighborhoods near the river from downtown, providing a safe connection between the Grand Junction Convention Center, Main Street, and train depot. The Rifle Mobility Hub expansion will at least double capacity to a minimum of 120 spaces, complementing efforts to redevelop the gateway to downtown Rifle with housing, restaurants, and retail.
- **Rio Grande Intermodal Transportation** – The City of Alamosa will receive \$4.8 million to fund the construction of a new pedestrian bridge across the span of the Rio Grande River channel in the Adams State University (ASU) neighborhood. The project will connect City of Alamosa residents and students at the Adams State University to outdoor recreation facilities and promote walkability and bikeability throughout the city.
- **West Side Connector** – The City of Pueblo will receive \$16.8 million for this project with three distinct components related to reconnecting the West Side of the City of Pueblo to downtown. In the first component, Spaulding/Sun Mountain Blvd. will be extended from 24th Street to 31st Street and two roundabouts will be constructed where Spaulding intersects 27th Street and 31st Street. The second component will rehabilitate 70 West Side bus stops to comply with ADA standards. The third component consists of planning and design for a 24th Street bridge and Downtown Corridor. The project is addressing physical barriers, including the railroad at 11th Street and multiple bridge closures across the Arkansas River, that prevent an underserved community from accessing essential services and employment centers. It will also restore and modernize core infrastructure and bring bus stops to ADA standard.

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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