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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$85.8 Million in Funding for Five Projects in Florida 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 \$85.8 million to support five projects in Florida 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 Florida, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Clearwater Multimodal Transit Center** – The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority will receive \$20 million for this project in Downtown Clearwater which will replace the existing Park Street Terminal with a new, more energy-efficient facility that includes

approximately 17 bus bays, two electric bus charging stations and capacity for future charging stations, access for future light rail on South East Avenue, ticketing and restroom facilities, and a drop off area for ride hailing/sharing. The existing Park Street Terminal has long been overcrowded and in need of significant repairs. The new facility will be reconstructed at a nearby site that will accommodate the existing bus fleet, improve options to use ride-share, bike, or walk, support PSTA's future electric fleet conversion and service expansions, and remedy significant safety and accessibility concerns. The new facility will be more energy efficient by using a high performing thermal building envelope, high efficiency mechanical equipment, schedule optimization software/sensors, and assumed net-zero power utilization with the grid tied solar system on the building roof.

- **New Berth 301** – The Tampa Port Authority will receive \$12.6 million to construct a new Berth 301 at the Port Redwing facility, which will connect Berths 300 and 302 with a 1,025-foot dock. The facility will have a 3,000-linear-foot berth capable of simultaneously docking three of the largest dry bulk/multi-purpose cargo vessels that can navigate the newly expanded Big Bend Channel. The new berth will reduce the number of vehicles truck miles and reduce vessel idling times. The project will add capacity and make shipping more efficient which will help alleviate supply chain challenges, while creating more than 800 full time jobs. In the first year of operations, the applicant estimates that the project would reduce truck travel by 2.84 million miles and reduce 7,722 tons of emissions, while saving on highway infrastructure maintenance.
- **PortMiami Net Zero Program: Cargo Mobility Optimization and Resiliency Project** – The County of Miami-Dade will receive \$16 million for this project consisting of two elements: (1) Expanded Intermodal Rail Capacity, and (2) Cargo Gate Optimization. The rail capacity component constructs two new rail tracks approximately 3,200 feet long, acquires three new electric-rubber-tired cranes, reconstructs apron areas on all sides of the track, installs LED lights, and reconstructs the stormwater drainage system to address sea level rise. The cargo gate optimization project will include roadway realignments to and from cargo gates, rehabilitation of the stormwater management system to address sea level rise, cargo gate canopies, staging areas for trucks, direct access to rail yard gates, and gate technology upgrades. The upgrades will result in more efficient freight movement that will alleviate supply chain issues. The rail capacity expansion is expected to promote a modal shift from truck to rail, resulting in environmental sustainability and safety benefits as well.
- **East Coast Corridor Trespassing and Intrusion Mitigation Project** – The Florida Department of Transportation will receive \$24.9 million to fund the final design and construction of supplemental safety measures at targeted locations along 195 miles of the shared-use Florida East Coast Railway/Brightline railway corridor. These include fencing and landscaping improvements, delineators and roadway striping, rail dynamic envelopes (RDE), crisis support signs, and “Do Not Stop on Tracks” signs. The project will reduce vehicle collisions and trespassing along a dangerous corridor, estimated by the applicant at more than 140 avoided collisions over the next 20 years. Fewer collisions also reduces delays for freight and passenger trains. The project will use innovative technology, particularly with RDEs to visually highlight the zone at railroad crossings that drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians should not stop and delineators, which are newer technologies that have demonstrated positive results for preventing vehicle intrusion.

- **SMART St. Augustine** – The Florida Department of Transportation will receive \$12.3 million for this project, which includes a citywide deployment of innovative transportation technologies such as smart parking, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, electric vehicle charging stations, and other transportation improvements. Improvements include six mid-block rectangular rapid-flashing beacons in high pedestrian traffic areas, automatic pedestrian and bicycle detection, pedestrian walk time extension for low mobility pedestrians, smart lighting sensors at three mid-block crossings and audible pedestrian countdown signals at approximately 23 locations. St. Augustine receives an estimated 6 million visitors annually, and according to the grant application, 53 percent of the city’s population lives in areas of persistent poverty. Over 20 percent of those residents are employed in tourism-related jobs in the downtown historic district, but tourism is threatened by congestion and mobility challenges that discourage visitors. Smart parking and bicycle amenities, among other improvements, will facilitate tourist access. The pedestrian safety improvements, such as audible countdown signals, also address equity as they will assist students who attend the St. Augustine Florida School for the Deaf & Blind, the largest school in the nation for hearing impaired students.

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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