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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$49.9 Million in Funding for Two Projects in Georgia 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 \$49.9 million to support two projects in Georgia 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 Georgia, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Reimagine North Avenue** – The County of Athens-Clarke will receive \$24.9 million to make Complete Street improvements along North Avenue from Downtown Athens, at the intersection of North Avenue and Willow Street, to just north of SR-10 at the intersection of Freeman Drive/Collins Industrial Boulevard. Ten bus stops along the corridor will be upgraded to accommodate sidewalks and transit stops. Throughout the corridor, traffic signals will be upgraded with pedestrian signals, and lighting and wayfinding will be installed. The road will be resurfaced with drainage improvements, and a shared use path will be constructed. It will provide area residents with improved access to affordable multimodal transportation options along North Avenue which is a main connection between low-income communities north of State Route (SR-10) and Downtown Athens. The project will also provide safe connections for area residents to employment, education, healthcare, public transit, essential services and recreational areas.
- **Five Points Transformation Phase 2** – The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) will receive \$25 million to rehabilitate the above-ground portions of the Five Points MARTA station by removing the aged station canopy, improving the bus bays, and revitalizing the station plaza/public space. The project will complement other investments, including Phase 1 to make below-ground station improvements and Phase 3 to make transit-oriented improvements. The project will improve the experience of travelers at the station and make transfers easier. By rebuilding an aging and confusing station, the project eliminates long walks to bus transfers in areas that are not adequately monitored, and users will not need to cross streets, improving safety by eliminating modal conflicts. Five Points station provides direct transit service from downtown Atlanta to the world's busiest airport (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International) in under 20 minutes, providing employment opportunities for an underserved and disadvantaged community. According to the applicant, within a half-mile of the station, more than 50 percent of individuals are living in poverty and 73 percent are minorities.

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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