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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$30.9 Million in Funding for Four Projects in Idaho 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 \$30.8 million to support four projects in Idaho 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 Idaho, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Reconnecting Accessibility and Improving Safety and Equity in Nampa** – The City of Nampa will receive \$5 million for this planning project which will design local and regional connections to benefit residents in the North Nampa Neighborhood. These improvements include sidewalk network expansion and modernization, shared use path construction, pedestrian pathway extension, a new pedestrian bridge, the replacement of an existing vehicular and pedestrian bridge, the modernization of two railroad underpasses, and the study of new transit services. The neighborhood has experienced over 450 crashes in 6 years, which would be reduced by this project. New public transit stops will connect residents in this underserved community to essential services, grocery stores, schools, churches, and parks. The pedestrian bridge will connect the neighborhood to a farmer's market that is located on the other side of railroad tracks and will improve ADA access around assisted living facilities.
- **State Street Premium Corridor** – Valley Regional Transit will receive \$8.4 million to construct transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities along a six and one-half mile section of State Street/SH 44 from downtown Boise to Bogart Lane. This project will include accessible bus stops, on-route charging, real-time bus arrival displays, ticketing machines, lighting, a multi-use path, wheelchair ramps and access, and bicycle and additional street crossings. The project will build transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities that will benefit vulnerable populations by improving transit speed and reliability, enhancing accessibility and safety at and near transit stops, and increasing the comfort and ease of non-motorized and transit travel. This project will better connect low-income residents with employers, grocery stores, healthcare facilities, schools, recreational facilities, and other life enhancing opportunities.
- **Access to Opportunity Planning Project** – The Ada County Highway District will receive \$5 million for this planning project which will plan and design twelve multimodal transportation projects. The total length of the twelve projects is over 10.5 miles and includes filling in sidewalk gaps, signalizing crossings, implementing ADA accessible pedestrian ramps and signals, building multi-use paths and designated bike facilities, upgrading transit bus stops, and evaluating green stormwater infrastructure to prevent runoff from entering the Boise River. The multi-use path will increase accessibility to the transit system—particularly for residents that do not have vehicle access. This will result in lower transportation costs. This project will also directly link a community that has been separated by I-184 to the 25 miles of paths and over 850 acres of parks and natural areas along the Boise River giving access to the recreation area. It connects the Boise West, Central Bench, and Garden City with the Boise River Greenbelt, a major regional trail connecting parks, jobs, and Boise's Downtown Central Business District.
- **Wood River Valley Mobility Corridor Improvements** – The Idaho Transportation Department will receive \$12.4 million to improve transit-oriented infrastructure at four intersections with ID-75 in the Wood River Valley Mobility Corridor: Ohio Gulch Road, East Fork Road, South Broadway Run, and Elkhorn Road. The improvements include bus pullouts, bus stops, passenger shelters, a park-n-ride, sidewalks, shared-use pathways, and shared-path tunnels/underpasses. The project corridor currently has limited access to public transportation and average daily travel volume that is 10 times higher than other county roads due to the proximity to tourism destinations. The project will provide pedestrians, cyclists, skiers, commuters, and others with safe access to the Wood River Trail System. In addition to supporting tourism, the project will make transit

connections to new housing developments for the local workforce. It will benefit the underserved, overburdened, and disadvantaged communities nearby by providing access to zero-fare and zero-emission transit services.

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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