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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$83.5 Million in Funding for Four Projects in Illinois 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 \$83.5 million to support four projects in Illinois 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 Illinois, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Harvey Intermodal Transportation Center** – The Pace Suburban Bus Division of the RTA will receive \$20 million to reconstruct existing bus transfer and rail station facilities into a cohesive intermodal transit facility with three main components. The first component will reconfigure the existing bus facility to provide better access to the Metra station, construct 14 new bus bays for fixed routes and 4 layover bus bays, create a paratransit vehicle boarding area, and add a dedicated lane for riders disembarking. The second component will make Metra station improvements, including modernizing amenities and demolishing the existing elevated platform and replacing it with a heated platform. The platform will also be extended by approximately 36 feet to allow all doors to open. The third component includes parking and site improvements to replace the two existing lots with one 226-space lot, including more ADA parking and access. The project improves access to transit alternatives for the local overburdened community. Replacing the two old, outdated facilities with a new modern one, redesigned to provide ease of access, a better travel experience, and is up to ADA standards will help residents get where they need to go more efficiently and affordably.
- **Greater Downtown Revitalization Project** – The City of East Moline will receive \$23.7 million to Complete Streetscaping of 15th Avenue from 6th to 13th Street, 12th Avenue from 1st to 7th Street, and 7th Street from 15th to 12th Avenue. A new road and streetscape will also extend from 3rd Street along Bend Boulevard to 6th Avenue. This project will help revitalize and promote local economic growth in an area that has suffered due to a major decline in manufacturing in the 1980s. The project will connect two brownfield redevelopment sites to downtown and help make the area a destination for business, recreation, and entertainment with connections for vehicles, bikes, buses, trains, and boats to the commercial core. The project increases pedestrian safety at rail crossings, and includes dedicated trails for non-motorized users, which is expected to result in modal shift for commuters away from personal vehicles to walking or cycling.
- **Englewood Line Trail Project** – The City of Chicago will receive \$20 million to fund the construction of a multiuse path on an abandoned elevated rail right-of-way in the historically burdened Chicago neighborhood of Englewood, to West 59th Street between South Lowe Avenue and South Hoyne Avenue. Within a half-mile of the proposed Englewood Trail Line, there were more than 4,000 crashes between 2016 and 2020 – 11 of which were fatal. The project will improve safety and mobility and community connectivity benefits for an overburdened, underserved community by creating an alternative, safer option for residents, while promoting active transportation and connections to transit. The project has, and will, continue to engage diverse people and communities through extensive, multi-year outreach and public meetings for project design and conception, addressing potential impacts such as gentrification, displacement, and equitable employment opportunities generated from the project.
- **Springfield Rail Improvements Project** – The City of Springfield will receive \$19.8 million to construct a new railroad grade separation underpass at North Grand Avenue over the Norfolk Southern and Illinois Midland rail lines. The new grade separation underpass is located near a historically disadvantaged community and a local high school, which will both benefit from safer access and potentially noise reduction. The underpass will also bridge the 150-year-old barrier for underserved communities east of the rail corridor to help residents access jobs downtown, public buildings, medical facilities, and emergency 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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