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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$63.1 Million in Funding for Five Projects in Louisiana 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 \$63.1 million to support five projects in Louisiana 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 Louisiana, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Downtown Baton Rouge and Gonzales Train Station Project** – The City of Gonzales will receive \$20 million to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct the Baton Rouge Train Station and Gonzales Train Station along the planned Baton Rouge-New Orleans (BR-NO) Inter-City Rail Service. The project also includes the construction of ADA accessible platforms and stations and the supporting infrastructure. The two new transit stations this project will construct will increase mobility and transportation choices for all residents. The new rail connection is expected to reduce vehicle congestion on the I-10 corridor and help save travel time as well as help reduce emissions.
- **Natchitoches Safe Streets Revitalization Project** – The City of Natchitoches will receive \$17.2 million to rehabilitate the Texas Street Business Corridor from the Highway 1 South Bypass to Washington Street. This will include rehabilitation of roads, new drainage and pavement, new and widened sidewalks, walking paths, and dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes. This project will improve access to the business corridor for households in an area of persistent poverty. It will also improve safety for all and help reduce crashes in an area where 75 percent of the fatal crashes in a recent 5-year period involved bicyclists, pedestrians or both.
- **Ferry Road Improvement Project** – The Plaquemines Parish Government will receive nearly \$1.1 million to replace a gravel roadway to the Pointe-a-la-Hache ferry facility with a hard surface roadway, will add a new southbound left turn lane on Highway 23, and will add a northbound deceleration turn lane and acceleration lane. The project also includes a parking area to help accommodate commuters. This road will replace the existing ferry access road and facility that has been damaged over the years by various storms, high river currents, and erosion, resolving a major mobility issue for local residents. The new, improved ferry crossing will enable this historically disadvantaged community to access an estimated more than 700 new jobs. The improved connectivity will also provide safety benefits for the community in the event of another major disaster.
- **Shreveport Healthcare and Development Corridor Project** – The City of Shreveport will receive nearly \$22.2 million to construct a roadway and make intersection improvements on the approximately 1.6-mile health care corridor at the nexus of I-49 and I-20 in Shreveport. The project includes reconstructing roadways and transit bus pull-outs, implementing bus rapid transit with electric bus technology and making improvements to traffic signals, emergency vehicle preemption signaling, streetlights, and ADA accessibility. It also provides improvements for alternative transportation methods including a pedestrian bridge and protected bicycle lanes. This project increases accessibility and availability of connections between zero-fare fixed transit routes that help people access health care facilities and other critical infrastructure. It addresses racial equity by serving an underserved area which is 93% Black and provides more affordable transportation connections between “zero-fare” fixed transit routes with paratransit services and the health care facilities.
- **Valentine Pontoon Bridge Replacement** – The Parish of Lafourche will receive \$2.6 million to replace the existing dilapidated Valentine Pontoon Bridge over Bayou Lafourche on State Highways 1 and 308 between Lockport and Larose with a modernized pontoon bridge. This new bridge will help to decrease travel time between the small rural communities it services, cutting the travel distance between Lockport and Larose in half. This will allow for increased access to the employment opportunities at the nearby Valentine Chemicals facility, as well as allow for more access to potential redevelopment

of other nearby industrial sites. Additionally, by eliminating pillars in the Bayou Lafourche, the new bridge will help to maximize flow and reduce environmental harm.

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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