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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$49.6 Million in Funding for Two Projects in Maine 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 \$49.610298 million to support two projects in Maine 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 Maine, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Downtown Sanford Village Partnership Initiative** – The Maine Department of Transportation will receive \$25 million to complete improvements on Cottage Street (Route 202), William Oscar Emery Drive, Main Street (Route 109), Washington Street, and School Street in Downtown Sanford. This includes constructing and/or replacing streets, sidewalks, crosswalks with ADA-compliant upgrades, traffic calming effects, roadway features that improve walkability and bike-ability, modern underground utility ducts, energy efficient streetlights, adequate parking spaces for electric vehicles, stormwater improvements, and trail connections. It will also construct a park and ride facility on Emerson Street. The project will restore roads and sidewalks and build a modern park and ride. The project incorporates innovative technology and materials for the stormwater drainage system and lighting that can be monitored and adjusted by officials. The Complete Streets improvements provide more affordable transportation options for the community.
- **Interstate 95 at Hogan Road Improvement Project** – The Maine Department of Transportation will receive \$24.6 million to replace Maine's busiest diamond interchange at I-95 and Hogan Road in Bangor with a safer and modern Diverging Diamond Interchange. The project will improve safety to a known hazard area by employing traffic calming features to slow vehicles along Hogan Road. The lack of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure around the interchange is a concern as Bangor's population grows and non-motorized transportation becomes more popular.

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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