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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$99.4 Million in Funding for Six Projects in Minnesota 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 \$99.4 million to support six projects in Minnesota 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 Minnesota, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Big Woods Transit Facility Construction** – The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa will receive \$9.5 million to construct a transit facility using a design that includes parallel parking to maximize the use of the space that will include a bus wash, a mechanics work bay with a lift, and solar power generation system. This project will build a transit facility to house, maintain, and clean the vehicles for the Bigs Woods Transit public transportation program that will keep the vehicles of this unique service sustainable and reliable for transit riders. The Big Woods Transit system is vital for linking the community to essential services for the reservation of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.
- **6th Street Bridge Construction Project** – The City of Rochester will receive \$19.9 million to build a multi-span bridge on 6th Street to connect the street and trail across the Zumbro River. The scope includes: (1) construction of an approximately 150-linear-foot, multi-span bridge, (2) building the approaches on 6th Street SW and 6th Street SE, (3) connecting 6th Street SE to the Zumbro South Trail for improved river access, (4) development of a new trail along the west bank of the Zumbro River, and (5) safety improvements at three key intersections. The project will address the physical barrier of the Zumbro River and provides community members affordable transportation options that connect them to employment and essential services by building a bridge and creating safer intersections. The project is expected to encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites in low-income neighborhoods that have been historically bypassed due to lack of transportation access.
- **Hwy 197 (Paul Bunyan Drive) Safety and Mobility Improvement Project** – The Minnesota Department of Transportation will receive \$18 million to reconstruct State Highway 197 with concrete, construct three roundabouts, and create an urbanized cross section with trails and lighting on both sides of the roadway. The project will also reconstruct two city roadways on Hannah Avenue and Middle School Drive and add new sidewalk connections and two compact roundabouts. The project will improve transportation along this essential corridor that has connections to the Bemidji Regional Airport and links to residential and commercial areas. The project benefits individuals without access to a private vehicle by creating a separate active transportation section with distinct multimodal pathways and connecting gaps in existing pedestrian and micromobility infrastructure.
- **Lake Street Multimodal Improvements to Enhance BRT** – Hennepin County will receive \$12 million to construct turn lanes, bus only lanes, remove a lane, provide ADA upgrades (pedestrian ramps and APS push button stations), and pave new surface along the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis. The project will improve bus transit operations with a bus only lane and increase pedestrian mobility and safety with Complete Street improvements that will allow residents to access employment opportunities more affordably and easily. This project will reduce crashes by converting Lake Street from a four-lane road to a three-lane road. The project provides significant benefits to the community through improved safety and travel time reliability.
- **Station 73 Transit and Regional Improvement Program** – The City of Plymouth will receive \$15 million to reconstruct a segment of Highway 55 by adding two new in-line bus platforms, constructing one mile of new multi-use path, adding a new at-grade trail railroad crossing, a new pedestrian refuge on Highway 55, and a new roundabout at South Shore Drive and 10th Avenue North. It will also realign County Road 73, construct a bicycle station and e-bike/e-scooter charging area at Station 73, and make stormwater

improvements. The project will include an underpass that will provide a multi-use trail parallel to County Road 73 that will improve safety in a hazardous area and eliminate crossing conflicts on Highway 55. The project increases mobility by providing infrastructure for services, bicycles, and pedestrians. The re-alignment of County Road 73 will redevelop around the station, which will increase the productivity of underutilized land.

- **West Superior Street Active Transportation Corridor** – The City of Duluth will receive nearly \$25 million to reconstruct an approximately two-mile-long section of West Superior Street in Lincoln Park to include an integrated multimodal corridor, electric vehicle charging stations, green infrastructure, and above-ground streetscapes. The complete reconstruction will include replacing all underground utilities (water, sewer, stormwater) and adding fiber optics for a future broadband corridor. Superior Street runs alongside I-35 and is bisected by I-535/US 53. The reconstruction project will reduce conflicts at these points and provide more transportation options with key infrastructure upgrades for non-motorized travelers such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The project also supports the Duluth Transit Authority's Better Bus Blueprint, which will improve bus service to connect residents at a 10-minute frequency to regional medical facilities, grocery, and schools. It will also connect residents and visitors to Canal Park for work and recreation and contribute to the revitalization of the Lincoln Park Craft District.

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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