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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$15.5 Million in Funding for Three Projects in Mississippi 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 \$15.5 million to support three projects in Mississippi 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 Mississippi, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Yazoo City Main Street Revitalization Project** – Yazoo City will receive \$12.6 million for the construction of a train station, development of a stormwater park to capture and

absorb excessive stormwater and flooding, and Complete Streets redevelopment that will include bike lanes, sidewalks, lighting, broadband infrastructure, and stormwater management along Main Street. The project will increase transportation options with rail, biking, and walking. It will address safety concerns by creating Complete Streets upgrades along the downtown corridor, as well as increase accessibility for travelers by providing active, alternative transportation options to reach the downtown area. These improvements will help revitalize the city through greater connectivity to downtown businesses, tourism, and other essential destinations.

- **Tupelo RAIL Improvements Program (TRIP) Planning** – The City of Tupelo will receive \$1.4 million for a planning project that involves planning and engineering for a highway overpass at Eason Boulevard and Kansas City Southern Crossing; move the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Switching Operations away from the intersection at Main Street and Gloster Street; and develop two separate Quiet Zones along the BNSF Line. By upgrading at-grade crossings, the project will decrease traffic congestion and reduce accidents and injuries in the project area. Reducing congestion will facilitate timely access for emergency vehicles and will also help reduce traffic related air pollution and emissions. The project incorporates partnership with state, local, and regional entities.
- **Tanglefoot Trail Extension** – The City of Ripley will receive \$1.4 million to fund the planning phase activities for an expansion of the existing 44-mile Tanglefoot Trail by an additional approximately 20 miles north from New Albany to Ripley. The extension, a rail-with-trail in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and about 20 miles east of Tupelo, MS, would run next to the rail line and Highway 15, and pass through the Town of Blue Mountain, home of Blue Mountain College. The project will provide non-vehicular, affordable, transportation access to several destinations throughout the region, particularly those related to tourism. This project will encourage active transportation options and provide community connectivity, while helping to improve quality of life and increase economic activity in the community.

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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