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Contact: pressoffice@dot.gov

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$25 Million in Funding for Two Projects in New Jersey 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 \$25 million to support two projects in New Jersey 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 New Jersey, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Intermodal Transportation Infrastructure Planning Project** – The City of Elizabeth will receive \$5 million for this planning grant to examine, identify and assess the feasibility of the construction of a ferry terminal and incorporation of a ferry service from Elizabeth, NJ to Manhattan. The study will explore viable service locations at the municipality's waterfront, required infrastructure and supportive services, as well as include alternatives to promote energy efficiency and effectiveness. The project will create transportation choices for individuals by providing a direct over-water connection to New York City and New Jersey. The project seeks to incorporate electric vehicle infrastructure which will reduce emissions and ease congestion by providing a new transportation option.
- **Raising a Resilient Route 40** – The New Jersey Department of Transportation will receive \$20 million to construct the elevation of one of Atlantic City's main evacuation routes for vehicles and pedestrians, provide upgrades to drainage systems along the route, and relocate associated utilities. The project will improve safety by reducing vehicle crashes and accidents caused by wet roadways pooling and by improving evacuation routes. By raising portions of the route, the project will be able to withstand 2-year probable storm surge elevations and improve overall storm management. Route 40 provides direct access to Atlantic City's casino industry, which provides thousands of jobs. The economic burden of flooding will be relieved especially for lower-income users who would have been forced to take the Atlantic City Expressway Toll Road as an alternative route. A new drainage main and updated 800-foot extension of the seawall will also reduce flooding and improve the roadway drainage, allowing it to have a longer service life.

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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