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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$60.2 Million in Funding for Six Projects in North Carolina 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 \$60.2 million to support six projects in North Carolina 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 North Carolina, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **New Intermodal Facility** – The North Carolina State Ports Authority will receive \$18 million to construct a state-of-the-art area for loading and discharging containers on and off the rail at the Port of Wilmington. The project will construct four dedicated rail sidings. The project will also pave approximately 9.7 acres around the rail siding, deploy three specialized and dedicated reach stackers to unload/load rail cars, and includes a secured area near the US Customs and Border Protection required Radiation Portals, and technology system enhancements. The project will create a state-of-the-art, dedicated, and safe area for loading and discharging containers on and off the rail at the port to reduce vehicle miles traveled and support efficient transportation design. The project will divert nearly 250,000 container boxes from trucks to rail over the next decade. This will speed up the movement of goods to and from the port and benefit the local and regional populations by creating new jobs.
- **Flow Better (Fixing Low Water Bridges for Emergency, Transportation, Technology, Equity, and Resilience)** - The North Carolina Department of Transportation will receive \$10.7 million to reconstruct approximately 28 bridges across six rural, western North Carolina counties. By replacing low water bridges, the community will have safer access to essential destinations, reliable transportation for emergency response, and fewer road closures due to flooding. This project will enhance the resiliency of the area's infrastructure by addressing bridges with posted weight restrictions which makes it difficult and unsafe for emergency vehicles, school buses, and agricultural vehicles and equipment to traverse them. The project will coordinate with bringing fiber to rural areas which will provide more wireless connections. The project will reduce fatalities and serious injuries and improve the overall quality of life for underserved communities.
- **Weeksville Road Accessibility & Connectivity Plan** – The City of Elizabeth City will receive \$2 million to fund the engineering and design of an approximately 3.6-mile multi-use path on Weeksville Road (NC 344) and add sidewalks/paths on key local connectors to the NC 344 corridor. The WRAC Plan will advance the project elements to a near-construction ready state. This project will increase transportation options in the community by allowing options to walk and bike which will decrease vehicle miles traveled, reduce emissions and help improve the quality of life for residents. The project will also provide safe access to grocery stores, schools, parks, and workplaces.
- **North Carolina Regional S-Line Mobility Hub Planning** – The Town of Wake Forest will receive \$3.4 million for this planning project to fund the planning of mobility hubs in seven communities along the passenger rail S-Line. The planning activities include feasibility and site assessments for all the partner communities, NEPA compliance, and preliminary engineering for four of the seven communities. The project will increase access to active transportation options, commuter rail and transit services. The addition of these mobility hubs will offer more transportation options for residents and reduce emissions in a rapidly growing corridor. The project will explicitly consider equity and minimize displacement when considering transit-oriented development strategies to ensure improved quality of life for the community. The project will repair roadways which will improve safety and ease congestion and includes long-term maintenance plans.
- **Long Branch Trail Extension** – The City of Winston-Salem will receive \$6 million to construct an approximately 1.2-mile extension on the Long Branch Trail along the

NCDOT Rail corridor from Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to 25th Street. In order to reduce pedestrian and bicycle related crashes in a known crash hot-spot, the project will implement safety features and improve non-motorized transportation connectivity in an underserved community. The construction of this trail extension will also increase access to education centers in the project area and connect people to job opportunities.

- **Partnership for Active Regional Transportation and Neighborhood Equity** – The North Carolina Department of Transportation will receive \$20 million to transform the Charlotte Road and Main Street Corridor into a Complete Street from Maple Street in Rutherfordton to Oakland Road in Spindale. The project is approximately 2.5 miles long and includes road improvements and various bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements. This project will implement road improvements as well as traffic calming measures to improve safety for all residents. Additionally, the project will provide non-motorized transportation choices to help reduce emissions and help people get around affordably. The project will help reduce travel times and increase access to jobs and affordable housing.

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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