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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$30.2 Million in Funding for Two Projects in Rhode Island 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 \$30.2 million to support two projects in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Providence Riverwalk Resilience Project** – The City of Providence will receive \$7.8 million for a planning project that will support advanced engineering, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) approvals, permitting, continued community engagement, an economic development analysis, and a benefit-cost analysis for the Providence Riverwalk Resilience Project. The project will decrease bicyclist and pedestrian accidents by creating a separated bike/ped path that provides access to the citywide Urban Trail Network. The project will help prevent further damage due to floods by raising the Riverwalk above the 100-year flood level and replacing underground pedestrian tunnels with an above-ground connection. The project will expand access to essential destinations such as regional and statewide job opportunities and create more accessible transportation options by bridging a critical gap in the non-motorized transportation network. The project will modernize infrastructure assets that are deteriorating, as well as meaningfully solicit community feedback and ensure collaboration with key stakeholders.
- **RIPTA Newport-Middletown Garage and Bus Electrification** – The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority will receive \$22.3 million to fund charging infrastructure, facility upgrades, and the procurement of approximately 25 battery-electric buses which will enable all Newport-based transit services to be electric. The project supports electrifying RIPTA's bus fleet which will improve mobility and connectivity through increased service while reducing emissions. The project will increase transportation options to employment hubs as well as tourist destinations by including more frequent bus services and increasing accessibility for non-motorized users.

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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