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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$63 Million in Funding for Three Projects in Tennessee 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 \$63 million to support three projects in Tennessee 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 Tennessee, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Complete Streets and ITS Traffic Signal Coordination Project SR343** – The City of Morristown will receive \$23.4 million to narrow the roadway from four to three lanes, add sidewalks, multiuse path, landscaping, lighting, and signage on SR343/ S Cumberland Street, as well as updating approximately 13 traffic signals through ITS Traffic Signal Coordination. The project will improve safety by reducing speed and creating space for a sidewalk on one side and a 10-foot-wide multiuse path on the other. The project will provide equitable, non-motorized transportation by including crosswalk painting, pedestrian traffic signals, and ADA-compliant features for both the intersections and sidewalks. The project will also restore and modernize infrastructure that runs through a disadvantaged and underserved community.
- **The Wilcox Boulevard Bridge - River to Ridge Mobility Project** – The City of Chattanooga will receive \$25 million to replace the Wilcox Boulevard bridge and will construct a 12.5-foot multi-use path on the southern edge of the project. The current bridge that spans the railyard is in a deteriorated condition and as a result has a load limit which forces emergency vehicles, trucks, and public transit buses to take long detours. The replacement bridge will accommodate these heavier vehicles and eliminate the need for detour. The proposed project will provide underserved communities with more reliable transportation to jobs, schools, recreation, and businesses.
- **U.S. Highway 127 Corridor Optimization** – The City of Dunlap will receive \$14.6 million to re-engineer the intersection of U.S. Highway 127, redesign right-of-way to include bicycle lanes and ADA-compliant pathways as well as vehicle lanes, stormwater runoff management, new curb and curb cuts, new network of pedestrian walks, crossing points, pedestrian bridges and amenities, ITS infrastructure, and wireless broadband throughout the corridor. The project will improve safety for non-motorized travelers by adding bicycle and pedestrian improvements where there were previously none. The project will reduce conflict points and enable traffic calming measures which will create a safer environment for the traveling public. The project plans on redeveloping brownfield sites along the corridor and mitigate stormwater runoff. The project will increase economic productivity by encouraging more concentrated, higher-density development along the corridor. The project will install ADA-compliant amenities to address the inadequate condition of the transportation network. The project design principles plan for the region's future with autonomous vehicle technologies, and incorporate ITS infrastructure within the corridor.

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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