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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$101.6 Million in Funding for Six Projects in Texas 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 \$101.6 million to support six projects in Texas 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 Texas, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Multimodal Laydown, Transportation Infrastructure Fostering Community Based Job Creation** –The Port of Port Arthur Navigation District will receive \$13.6 million to convert an abandoned railyard into a modern cargo storage and staging area. The project includes an approximate 25.5 acres of site stabilization and related lighting, fencing, fiber optic, stormwater management, relocation of utilities underground, and reconditioning of a two-story structure to mitigate flood risks. The project will decrease accidents by creating more space for the efficient and timely movement of goods and people. The project will reduce truck idling and emissions, improve freight mobility and multimodal transfer capabilities, improve access to jobs and local economic development, while addressing racial equity and improving transportation resiliency.
- **Telephone Road: Main Street Revitalization Project** – The City of Houston will receive \$20.9 million to deliver approximately 2.8 miles of multimodal improvements and connect two planned community-led projects at the north and south ends, creating one continuous corridor. The project will address hazards such as faded street markings, crumbling or non-existent sidewalks and bike lanes within the roadway that has led to numerous crashes. The project will improve safety and ADA accessibility by upgrading pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and creating additional transportation options.
- **Texas Active Transportation Network** – The Texas Department of Transportation will receive \$25 million to complete two trails totaling approximately 50 miles, including approximately eight bridges, landscaping and trail amenities on the Northeast Texas Trail (NETT) and the Paso del Norte Trail (PDN) in the El Paso area. Upgrading eight bridges and dozens of miles of trail will provide underserved communities access to schools, jobs, recreation centers, grocery stores, and other essential services. The project will upgrade the condition of the bridges that will improve safety and promote active transportation to residents.
- **Commerce Street Corridor Redesign Project** – The City of Harlingen will receive \$5 million for a planning project for the redesign and preliminary engineering of the Commerce Street Corridor. The project will evaluate corridor transportation needs, establish a community-supported vision for the corridor, and develop a preferred design concept and associated preliminary engineering. The project will reduce crashes and protect non-motorized travelers along the corridor. It will also incorporate stormwater management to improve resiliency against flooding. The project will increase affordable and accessible transportation options by improving non-motorized facilities. The project includes broad collaboration with key stakeholders in an underserved community.
- **Improved Bicycle/ Pedestrian Routes to Rail & Transit Technology Upgrades** – The North Central Texas Council of Governments will receive \$25 million to construct over 30 miles of sidewalk in the half-mile radius of DART's 8th & Corinth, Morrell, Illinois, and Kiest Stations. It will also extend the Cedar Crest Trail approximately 1.5 miles, and improve transit accommodations with upgrades and safety features at nearby bus stops on DART route 217 and Blue Line light rail stations including Kiest, VA Medical Center, and Morrell Stations. The project enhancements will address safety concerns caused by inadequate or missing sidewalks, and improve the safety of pedestrians and transit riders. The project will improve transit access in a community where 17% of the population lacks access to a personal vehicle. The project is the result of collaboration between NCTCOG, the City of Dallas and DART, and has included robust public engagement

processes. It includes innovative technologies such as Next Generation SMART Shelters at the stations.

- **Ysleta Port of Entry Pedestrian and Site Improvements** – The City of El Paso will receive \$12 million for design and construction of pedestrian and related site improvements on City of El Paso-owned property, the Ysleta Port of Entry. The project will improve safety by constructing separate facilities for drop-offs and pick-ups, as well as pedestrian improvements such as designated raised crosswalks, warning signage, guardrails, canopies, and wayfinding signage. The project will reduce air pollution and emissions by supporting pedestrian infrastructure and transit bus stops. The project will help ease barriers to crossing the bridge on foot, bike, or reaching the border crossing by transit. The port of entry is the second busiest crossing in the U.S, with many people crossing between Juarez and El Paso to commute to jobs, school, shopping, and family. This project is a result of collaboration between the El Paso Bridges steering committee, which is comprised of 20 government agencies, non-profits, businesses, and other stakeholders both in the U.S. and Mexico.

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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