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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$97.7 Million in Funding for Seven Projects in Washington 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 \$97.7 million to support seven projects in Washington 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 Washington, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Connecting Lynnwood: Poplar Way Bridge** – The City of Lynnwood will receive \$25 million to construct a new six-lane, multimodal bridge over I-5 in Lynnwood,

Washington, between the intersections of 196th Street SW (SR 524)/Poplar Way and 33rd Avenue W/Alderwood Mall Boulevard. The project will alleviate congestion and backups on the 196th Street SW off-ramps and overcrossings, thereby helping improve safety in and around the operations of I-5. This project will improve safety for vehicles navigating to Lynnwood destinations as well as reduce the distance for pedestrian and cyclists by adding a protected shared use path. Reduced congestion as a result of the project will allow for improved access to the transit-oriented mixed-use development underway in downtown Lynnwood, reduce transportation related emissions, and provide greater access to downtown services, employment opportunities and transit.

- **Airport Road Multimodal & Regional Access Improvements** – The City of Pullman will receive \$1 million for a planning project that will complete the final planning documents required for the reconstruction of approximately 2.1 miles of Airport Road with a wider roadway section, shared use bike path, intersection roundabout and pedestrian sidewalk accessing the Pullman-Moscow Airport. The project will provide for the separation of motorized and non-motorized activities, which will reduce accidents in the project area. The project will also provide a bus stop that will connect the airport to the regional bus system, including a roundabout feature at the beginning of the entrance road, which will provide great safety to those accessing the airport.
- **Bothell Way NE Multimodal Improvements** – The City of Bothell will receive \$19 million to widen Bothell Way NE from Reder Way to 191st St NE to 5 lanes. The project consists of mobility improvements including protected bicycle lanes, sidewalks, transit stop amenities, illumination, signalization, ITS and adaptive signalization for transit prioritization, landscaping, fish habitat enhancement and crossings, and wetland mitigation. Other work includes retaining walls, storm drainage, and utility work. The project will provide dedicated turn lanes and signals at high volume intersections and constructed protected bike and pedestrian lanes which will reduce crashes within the corridor and promote safety for all travelers. The project will diverge a portion of trip along the corridor to non-motorized modes and transit by providing safer infrastructure throughout the corridor linking residential areas with services and employment centers.
- **Heritage Connectivity Trails - Phase 1** – The Washington State Department of Transportation will receive \$1 million for a planning project that will complete a feasibility study on how to better connect residents from nearby communities to services, jobs and opportunity in Yakima, especially those without access to a personal vehicle. The study will explore route options and local street improvements to connect existing regional bicycle/pedestrian facilities between and within the cities of Toppenish, Wapato and Union Gap, including tie-ins to roundabouts on US 97 and the Yakima Greenway Trail. The project seeks safety improvements on a high crash corridor, including a safe pedestrian crossing at US 97 and SR 22, safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities and reduced transportation-related air pollution. The project will continue to collaborate with public and private entities such as the State DOT, the Yakima Nation, cities, counties, and many local government agencies and non-profit organizations. The project includes extensive and inclusive community outreach to ensure equity considerations are included during the planning process.
- **Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project** – Whatcom County will receive \$25 million to replace the 60-year-old ferry with an electric-battery hybrid ferry that provides service to and from the rural community of Lummi Island. The

project also includes adjusting the terminal structures to accommodate the new ferry, installing electrical charging infrastructure, and making operational and upland modifications to preserve and enhance the functionality of the ferry system. The project will replace a functionally obsolete ferry that was not designed to meet current safety standards which will help reduce accidents and vehicle damages that occur as passengers and vehicles navigate the ferry during loading and unloading. This ferry is a connection point for the Lummi Island community and tourism on the island as the only way to reach the island is by boat. The project will reduce emissions by transitioning to an electric-battery hybrid ferry, as well as reduce noise pollution emitted in the water which will improve the habitat for marine mammals. The current ferry is also taken out of service for two weeks for an annual inspection. Not only will the improved ferry increase reliable transportation to and from the mainland, but it will also ensure adequate and timely access for emergency services such as the volunteer fire department.

- **Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project** – The City of Spokane Valley will receive nearly \$21.7 million to replace the highway-rail at-grade crossing of Pines Road (State Route 27) and the BNSF Railway tracks with a new Pines Road underpass. The project will replace the signalized intersection of two state highways, Pines Road (SR 27) and Trent Avenue (SR 290), with a multi-lane roundabout, and construct a separated shared use path under the railroad crossing and an adjacent shared use path around the new roundabout intersection. The project will also construct a new trailhead and parking lot facility, equipped with restrooms, electric vehicle charging, and non-motorized access to the adjacent Centennial Trail and Spokane River. By separating the freight rail from vehicle, bike and pedestrian traffic, this will help improve supply chain movement, decreasing delays, and will improve safety and mobility for all roadway users, including transit and nonmotorized users traveling throughout the project area. In addition, the project will provide a safe and reliable alternative to the existing at-grade crossing, while reducing congestion at nearby intersections. The project will also address current and projected system vulnerabilities, as well as reduce noise pollution resulting from the existing rail crossing.
- **Reconnecting I-90 Communities** – The Washington State Department of Transportation will receive \$5 million for planning studies in Spokane and Seattle, where I-90 interstate highway construction continues to geographically divide neighborhoods with the goal of helping to reconnect these communities through new infrastructure investments. The planning project will result in connecting communities that were bifurcated by I-90 by creating safe, accessible transportation options that will connect underserved communities to each other, to extensive transit systems, and to other services. The project will also utilize an innovative strategy called Safe System that takes data-driven approaches to transportation infrastructure developments.

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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