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**Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$20.4 Million in Funding for Two Projects in West Virginia 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 \$20.4 million to support two projects in West Virginia 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 West Virginia, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Wheeling Streetscape** – The West Virginia Department of Transportation will receive \$16.2 million to make approximately 1.85 miles of Complete Street upgrades to Main Street, Market Street, Chapline Street, Eoff Street, and their cross-streets on 10th Street, the 11th Street Plaza, 12th Street, 14th Street, 17th Street, and South Street. The project will help reinvigorate the 2-mile corridor in downtown Wheeling by expanding transportation options and access to the growing downtown area. The improved bus and bicycle facilities, and pedestrian crossings will remove physical barriers and provide safe, affordable non-motorized transportation options for underserved members of the community.
- **Greenbag Road Corridor Planning and Design Project** –The Morgantown Monongalia MPO will receive \$4.2 million for a planning project that will design two segments of the Greenbag Road corridor to help make them safer and reduce crashes, while adding additional transit stops. It will also study the feasibility of an off-road pedestrian path parallel to Greenbag Road that would provide safe access to the Decker’s Creek Rail Trail. The project ultimately will reduce crashes on Greenbag Road, which experienced 218 crashes over a 5-year period. Pedestrians and bike riders will benefit from the installation of sidewalks or multi-purpose paths, and the project will encourage transit use with the installation of transit stops at appropriate locations. The project will bring roadway lane widths up to standards and include either a sidewalk or multi-use path which will be determined during this design/planning phase. The project will not only reduce traffic and benefit residents along the route of the improvement, but it will also remove large trucks from a local street that goes through underserved communities. The project will help better connect residents living along Greenbag Road including residents of the Bluegrass Village and Marjorie Gardens housing developments to jobs, education, and recreation via a variety of transportation options. As a result of partnerships and collaboration, planning efforts have been made to mitigate impacts on an existing community garden by establishing at least three new community gardens.

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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