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Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$34.6 Million in Funding for Three Projects in Vermont 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 \$34.6 million to support three projects in Vermont 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 Vermont, the following projects will benefit from RAISE awards:

- **Federal Street Multimodal Connector** – The City of St. Albans will receive \$7.7 million to make multimodal improvements including approximately 1,000 feet of new road and sidewalk, reconstruction of approximately 6,475 feet of roadway, reconstruction of approximately 7,050 feet of sidewalk, improvements at six intersections, replacement of a failing bridge, installation of crosswalks, bicycle markings, pedestrian traffic signal controls, pedestrian-scale lighting, and other safety improvements. The project will reduce accidents by installing and improving signals at various intersections along new sidewalks and lane markings. The project will increase transportation options for all travelers, better connecting people to essential destinations in the downtown area. The project is also adjacent to the Amtrak station which offers additional transportation services. The project will replace and improve existing deteriorating roadways and sidewalks and will also add better stormwater management to minimize the damage of water events.
- **Transit-Oriented Development Plan for Northwest Vermont** – The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission will receive \$2.1 million for a planning project that will develop a comprehensive plan for transit-oriented development for 12 communities across a five-county region in Northwest Vermont. The project will also support plans for improved bus services and/or commuter rail. The project seeks to provide rural Vermonters dependent on single use automobiles with increased transportation options. The project incorporates equity considerations throughout the planning process, will improve public transit in the region, and help reduce transportation costs.
- **Winooski River Bridge Replacement** – The Vermont Agency of Transportation will receive \$24.8 million to replace the Winooski River Bridge that carries US Routes 2 and 7 over the Winooski River between the cities of Winooski and Burlington, VT. The project will improve the resilience of the at-risk bridge and reduce air pollution and emissions from transportation by providing a wider structure that is more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. The project will increase accessibility for travelers to jobs and business opportunities and the essential destinations between the two cities. The project will restore and modernize the bridge utilizing modern materials and design practices to increase its lifespan.

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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