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President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Rhode Island

As of February 2023

The Biden-Harris Administration has hit the ground running to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and it is already delivering results for the people of Rhode Island. To date, \$1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Rhode Island with over 30 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, Rhode Island will receive approximately \$885.3 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and roughly \$66 million for clean water. And, as of today, more than 51,000 households across the state are receiving affordable high-speed internet due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Many more projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and as formula funds become specific projects. By reaching communities all across Rhode Island – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Rhode Islanders and position the state for success.

Roads and Bridges: In Rhode Island, there are 148 bridges and over 860 miles of highway in poor condition. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild our roads and includes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. Based on formula funding alone, Rhode Island is expected to receive approximately \$1.8 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$687.6 million has been announced in Rhode Island for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
 - \$585.3 million in highway formula funding and \$102 million in dedicated formula funding for bridges in 2022 and 2023.

- \$30.2 million through the RAISE program and \$82.5 million through the INFRA program in 2022 and 2023.

Internet: High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet nearly 19% of Rhode Islanders do not have an internet subscription. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. Rhode Island will receive a minimum allocation of at least \$100 million to help ensure high-speed internet coverage across the state. Additionally, experts estimate that as many as 164,000 households in Rhode Island are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which cuts internet bills by up to \$30 per month, or \$75 for households on Tribal lands, and provides a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device. The Biden-Harris Administration is providing further cost savings by working with internet providers to offer high-speed internet plans that are fully covered by the Affordable Connectivity Program — meaning most eligible households can now get high-speed internet without paying a dime.

- **Progress to date:** To date, Rhode Island has received \$5 million through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) to help provide access to high-speed internet across the state. In addition, about 51,000 households in Rhode Island are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, with more signing up every day. Households can check their eligibility, sign up, and find fully covered internet plans at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov).

Water: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including the first-ever dedicated federal funding to replace lead service lines and address dangerous PFAS chemicals.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$66 million has been announced to Rhode Island to provide clean and safe water across the state and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
 - \$66 million available in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to provide clean and safe water across the state through the Environmental Protection Agency. Of this funding, \$28.4 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$18 million for safe drinking water investments that can also support lead pipe replacement in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

Public Transit: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on formula funding alone, Rhode Island would expect to receive approximately \$292 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the state.¹ This funding will expand

¹ Transit formula funding amounts are subject to changes resulting from the 2020 census or from annual transit service data reported to FTA's National Transit Database.

healthy, sustainable transportation options in Rhode Island, where non-white households are 2.4 times more likely to commute via public transportation and 17% transit vehicles in the state are currently past useful life.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Rhode Island has been allocated \$55.9 million to improve public transportation options across the state in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

Clean Buses: The Bipartisan Infrastructure invests over \$10 billion for clean public transit and school buses. This includes a \$5 billion investment over the next five years to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Use of clean school buses promotes cleaner air, reduced health risks, especially for children, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This year alone, funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help double the number of clean public transit buses on America's roads.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Rhode Island has been awarded \$9.9 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program.

Electric Vehicle Charging: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$7.5 billion to build the first-ever national network of electric vehicle chargers in the United States and is a critical element of President Biden's plan to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs. Through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program alone, Rhode Island should expect to receive roughly \$23 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the state.

- **Announced funding to date:** Rhode Island has been allocated \$8.3 million in 2022 and 2023 to build out a network of EV chargers across the state.

Clean Energy & Power: Power outages cost the U.S. economy more than \$70 billion annually. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to upgrade our power infrastructure by making the grid more resilient and building thousands of miles of new transmission lines to deliver clean, affordable electricity. The law also makes a historic investment in clean energy technologies like advanced nuclear, clean hydrogen, carbon capture, and batteries, as well as a historic \$3.5 billion investment in weatherization to improve energy efficiency of homes and lower energy costs for impacted households by an average of \$372 per year.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$22.9 million has been allocated to Rhode Island for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022 and 2023. This includes:
 - \$15 million for weatherization;

- \$3.3 million through the State Energy Program;
- \$2.8 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
- \$1.9 million to prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient. Additional grid funding will be made available in the coming months.

Airports: According to some rankings, no U.S. airports rank in the top 25 of airports worldwide. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$25 billion in airports to replace and modernize airport infrastructure, which helps the US become more economically competitive globally, creates good jobs, and revitalizes and supports more efficient and enhanced traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Rhode Island has received approximately \$9.1 million in 2022 and 2023 for airports.

Ports and Waterways: Like airports, our ports and waterways are in need of repair and investment. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$17 billion in port infrastructure to strengthen our supply chains, address maintenance backlogs, and reduce congestion and emissions near ports— ultimately helping our country move goods more quickly and at lower cost.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Rhode Island has received roughly \$12.8 million in 2022 and 2023 for ports and waterways. Rhode Island was awarded \$11.3 million for 1 port projects through the Port Infrastructure Development Program.

Resilience: Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change and extreme weather every day. More frequent hurricanes, wildfires, heat waves, floods, unprecedented power outages, and persistent droughts devastate our communities and threaten our infrastructure. In the last decade, Rhode Island has experienced 10 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$1 billion in damages. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to bolster our resilience against pressing challenges like impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, and other hazards like cyberattacks.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$61.2 million has been allocated to Rhode Island for infrastructure resilience in 2022 and 2023 including \$10.3 million through the Army Corps of Engineers for flood mitigation.

Legacy Pollution Cleanup: Across the country, thousands of former industrial, chemical, and energy sites emit harmful pollutants into surrounding communities. These

sites pose harms to health, welfare, and economic prosperity — and disproportionately impact communities of color: 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in American history by cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaiming abandoned mines, and capping orphaned oil and gas wells.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$2.5 million has been allocated to cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites.

For more information, click [here](#) to see a map of funding and announced projects in your community through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Transportation Project Spotlight

Newport-Middletown Garage and Bus Electrification

Overview: DOT awarded \$22.3 million to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to fund charging infrastructure, facility upgrades and the purchase of 25 battery-electric buses. The project will enable the electrification of all Newport-based transit services and increase transportation options to employment hubs and tourist destinations.

See [here](#) for the full list of RAISE Grant Awards.

Providence Riverwalk Resilience Project **City of Providence Rhode Island**

Overview: The project will decrease bicyclist and pedestrian accidents by creating a separated bike/ped path that provides access to the citywide Urban Trail Network. The project will help prevent further damage due to floods by raising the Riverwalk above the 100-year flood level and replacing underground pedestrian tunnels with an above-ground connection. The project will expand access to essential destinations such as regional and statewide job opportunities, and create more accessible transportation options by bridging a critical gap in the non-motorized transportation network.

See [here](#) for the list of RAISE Grant Awards.

Bridge Project Spotlight

Newport Pell Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Overview: DOT awarded \$82.5 million to the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority to rehabilitate the Newport Pell Bridge, a 4-lane suspension bridge over

Narragansett Bay. This bridge is designated a Critical Freight Corridor and connects mainland Rhode Island to Newport and provides affordable and efficient travel options for residents and tourists.

See [here](#) for the full list of INFRA Grants.

Resilience Project Spotlight

Deep Pond and School House Pond Watershed

Overview: The Department of Agriculture awarded \$14 million to projects aiming to address erosion control, water quality, and needed habitat improvement to the Deep Pond and School House Pond watershed in Charlestown, Rhode Island.

See [here](#) for the full list of Natural Resources and Conservation Service projects announced.