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# INVESTING IN AMERICA

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## President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Arkansas

As of May 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 Arkansas. To date, \$2.9 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Arkansas with over 231 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, approximately \$2.3 billion has been announced for transportation – to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports – and roughly \$207 million has been announced for clean water. And, as of today, more than 168,000 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 Arkansas – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Arkansans and position the state for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** In Arkansas, there are 663 bridges and over 6,711 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, Arkansas is expected to receive approximately \$3.9 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$1.5 billion has been announced in Arkansas for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$1.4 billion in highway formula funding and \$120.3 million in dedicated formula funding for bridges in 2022 and 2023.
  - \$24.6 million through the RAISE program in 2022 and 2023.

*Announced Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is as of April 20, 2023*

**Internet:** High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet nearly 35% of Arkansans do not have an internet subscription. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. Arkansas 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 581,000 households in Arkansas 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, Arkansas 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 168,000 households in Arkansas 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, \$207 million has been announced to Arkansas to provide clean and safe water across the state and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$207 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, \$88 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$52.3 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, Arkansas would expect to receive approximately \$244 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the state.<sup>1</sup> This funding will expand healthy, sustainable transportation options in Arkansas, where non-white households are 3.8 times more likely to commute via public transportation and 25% transit vehicles in the state are currently past useful life.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Arkansas has been allocated \$46.1 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, schools in Arkansas have been awarded \$4.3 million through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program. In addition, communities in Arkansas were awarded \$878.6,000 for clean transit buses and improved bus service through DOT's Low- and No-Emission Bus and Bus and Bus Facilities 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, Arkansas should expect to receive roughly \$54 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the state.

- **Announced funding to date:** Arkansas has been allocated \$19.5 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 \$52.9 million has been allocated to Arkansas for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022 and 2023. This includes:
  - \$32.9 million for weatherization;

- \$5.4 million through the State Energy Program;
- \$4.3 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
- \$10.3 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 U.S. become more economically competitive globally, creates good jobs, and revitalizes and supports more efficient and enhanced traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Arkansas has received approximately \$90.4 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, Arkansas has received roughly \$635.4 million in 2022 and 2023 for ports and waterways. Arkansas was awarded \$6.4 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, Arkansas has experienced 35 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$6 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 \$272.5 million has been allocated to Arkansas for infrastructure resilience in 2022 and 2023 including \$24.5 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, approximately \$28.1 million has been allocated to Arkansas in 2022 and 2023 for capping orphaned oil and gas wells and reclaiming abandoned mine lands.

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

## **Arkansas Project Spotlights**

### ***Airport Project Spotlight***

#### **Northwest Arkansas National Airport Upgrades**

The Northwest Arkansas National Airport was awarded \$13 million by the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration to make significant upgrades that will improve the movement of passengers and baggage, provide better passenger services, support accessibility for passengers with disabilities, and increase energy efficiency. This project will improve the experience of travelers and reduce delays.

See [here](#) for a map and list of the 2022 Airport Infrastructure awards.

### ***Resilience Project Spotlight***

#### **Flood Risk Reduction in Pine Bluff**

The Department of Agriculture invested \$32 million through the National Resources and Conservation Service to reduce flood risks in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Over the past five years, flooding has caused significant problems for the residents and infrastructure in Pine Bluff. Funding will be used to develop solutions to prevent flooding and improve safety, health, and quality of life.

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

### ***Reconnecting Communities Project Spotlight***

## **Little Rock I-30 Deck Park and Green Space**

The Department of Transportation awarded the City of Little Rock with a \$2 million planning grant from the Reconnecting Communities Program to study the implementation of a deck park and green space at an I-30 crossing. The deck park could include playgrounds, sports fields and trees.

See [here](#) for a full list of announced Reconnecting Communities Awards.

## ***Clean Buses Project Spotlight***

### **Funding for Hybrid Buses in the City of Jonesboro**

The Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration awarded \$878,600 through its Low or No Emission Bus Program to the City of Jonesboro to buy hybrid buses. The buses will replace older diesel buses and help improve air quality for riders throughout the city. This year's funding alone will nearly double the number of no-emission transit buses on America's roadways. For the first time, five percent of low- and no-emission bus funding will be used to train transit workers on how to maintain and operate new clean bus technology.

See [here](#) for more information on Low or No Emission Bus programs that have been announced.

## ***Roads and Bridges Project Spotlight***

### **Connect Conway Project**

The Department of Transportation has awarded more than \$24.6 million to the city of Conway through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The project will include 15 miles of bike and pedestrian infrastructure, providing vital transportation links for residents to parks, schools, shopping and business opportunities, colleges, jobs, and community services. The project benefits the entire community, especially those without access to personal vehicles.

See [here](#) for information on RAISE projects that have been announced.