

***The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will Deliver for the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands***

President Biden and Vice President Harris support the Senate’s passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century. **The need for action in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is clear and recently released state and territory data demonstrates that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver for the Commonwealth.** For decades, infrastructure in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for hundreds of thousands of residents of the Northern Mariana Islands, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century. Specifically, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will:

- **Repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.** One in five miles, or 173,000 total miles, of our highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges across the United States are in poor condition. Bridges in poor condition pose heightened challenges in communities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which often may rely on a single bridge for the passage of emergency service vehicles. **Through the Territorial Highway Program, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands would expect to receive nearly \$24 million over five years to rebuild its roads and bridges. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands can also compete for \$7.5 billion in funding over five years for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.**

- **Improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans.** America’s transit infrastructure is inadequate – with a multibillion-dollar repair backlog, representing more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations, and thousands of miles of track, signals, and power systems in need of replacement. This legislation represents the largest investment in public transit in history, and will make a long overdue investment in the Commonwealth’s public transportation. **Based on formula funding alone, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands would expect to receive \$7 million over five years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the island.**¹

- **Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet.** Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health

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.

care, and to stay connected. Yet speed test data shows that the median speeds in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are well below the FCC's speed benchmark for minimally acceptable broadband. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive a minimum allocation of \$25 million to help improve broadband service and to promote broadband adoption and affordability.** And, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, low-income families in the Commonwealth will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will provide a \$30 per month broadband subsidy and \$100 device subsidy for families with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

- **Prepare more of our infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyberattacks, and extreme weather events.** A recent report from the Climate Program Office at NOAA found that climate change is causing heat waves, stronger tropical storms and typhoons, sea level rise, and coral loss in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act makes our communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber-attacks, with an investment of over \$50 billion. Based on historical formula funding levels, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will expect to receive \$2.5 million to protect against cyberattacks. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will also benefit from the bill's historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization which will reduce energy costs for families.**
- **Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation's lead service lines and pipes.** Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on the traditional revolving fund formula, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will expect to receive more than \$24 million over five years to improve water infrastructure in the region and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.**
- **Improve our nation's airports.** The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, airports in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands would receive approximately \$30 million for infrastructure development over five years².**

² Precise allocations would change each year because the formulas use current passenger boarding and cargo data, and this estimate is based on 2019 data.

Over the coming days and weeks, we will expect to receive additional data on the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.