

**PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

# **BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA**

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## **President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Alaska**

As of November 2022

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 Alaska. To date, nearly \$3 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Alaska with over 560 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, Alaska is set to receive more than \$2 billion for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and \$296 million for clean water. And, as of today, more than 12,000 households across the state are receiving affordable 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 Alaska – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Alaskans and position the state for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** In Alaska, there are 141 bridges and over 577 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, Alaska is expected to receive approximately \$3.7 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, over \$1.5 billion has been announced in Alaska for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$1.4 billion in highway formula funding and \$90 million in dedicated formula funding for bridges in 2022 and 2023.
  - \$43.5 million through the RAISE program.

**Internet:** High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet nearly 28% of Alaskans do not have an internet subscription. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. Alaska 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 89,000 households in Alaska 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, over 12,000 households in Alaska 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:** Currently, up to 10 million American households across the country connect to water through lead pipes and lack access to clean, safe drinking 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, \$296 million has been announced to Alaska to provide clean and safe water across the state and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$65.1 million available in fiscal year 2022 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.

**Public Transit:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on formula funding alone, Alaska would expect to receive more than \$404 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 Alaska, where 28% of 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, Alaska has been allocated \$77.4 million to improve public transportation options across the state in fiscal year 2022.

**Clean Buses:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 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, Alaska has been awarded \$395 thousand for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program. In addition, communities in Alaska were awarded \$13.7 million for clean transit buses and improved bus service through DOT's Low- and No- Emission 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, Alaska should expect to receive more than \$52 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the state.

- **Announced funding to date:** Alaska has been allocated \$18.9 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 \$51.8 million has been allocated to Alaska for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022. This includes:
  - \$18.4 million for weatherization;
  - \$3.7 million through the State Energy Program;

- \$29.7 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 enhances traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Alaska has received more than \$82.5 million in 2022 for airports.

**Ports and Waterways:** Like airports, our ports and waterways are in need of repair and reimagination. 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, Alaska has received nearly \$402 million in 2022 for ports and waterways. Alaska was recently awarded \$112 million for 4 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, Alaska has experienced 7 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$5 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 \$398 million has been allocated to Alaska for infrastructure resilience in 2022 including \$281 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, more than \$33.7 million has been allocated to Alaska in 2022 for capping orphaned oil and gas wells and reclaiming abandoned mine land.

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

## ALASKA PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

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

#### **Resurrection Creek Collaborative Aquatic Landscape**

The State of Alaska will receive \$220,000 in BIL funding from the Forest Service to support the Resurrection Creek Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Action Plan. The project will improve over 14 miles of valuable salmon and trout habitat and 72 acres of riparian forests and floodplains that were severely altered by a century of hydraulic and placer dredge mining, as well as improve access to popular recreational areas, treat invasive plants, and remove hazardous fuels. This restoration plan will create a more naturally functioning stream ecosystem by adding dozens of large log jams and creating a naturally sinuous and functioning watershed while re-vegetating riparian forests. New interpretive areas will describe the rich history of the area.

See [here](#) for more information on the Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program.

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

#### **Marine Service Center Sheetpile Wall and Crane – RAISE program**

Overview: The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the City and Borough of Sitka more than \$7.8 million in a RAISE Grant fund the construction of a new seawall at Sitka's Marine Service Center. The project will also upgrade a port facility that will help move goods and service ships, and replace a 2-ton crane for continued operation of this vital Sitka port. The project will construct a new seawall, which is vital to continue commercial fishing in Sitka and providing jobs for residents. The current 46-year-old seawall is at risk of collapse and puts stability of the seafood cold storage facility at risk. Without that facility, there will be insufficient cold storage in Sitka, and inbound freight would have to go to other ports for retrieval on smaller vessels, increasing costs of goods and services.

See [here](#) for information on RAISE projects that were announced earlier this year.

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

#### **Clarks Point - Ekuk Road Project**

Overview: The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the Bristol Bay Native Association more than \$13.3 million to support the construction of a gravel road connecting the communities of Clark's Point and Ekuk. The road will provide the only safe surface transportation between the villages of Clarks Point and Ekuk, which are currently only accessible by small skiff or ATV/snowmobile trail. The new road will reduce reliance on these hazardous and environmentally damaging modes of transportation, which impact wetlands, vegetation, and subsistence areas. It also presents economic opportunity, both for residents accessing employment, and by providing access to land that could be developed in areas farther from the threats of coastal erosion. This road will support commercial fishing operations, facilitate shared use of public services (healthcare, education, and power and waste utilities) between the villages, and allow for critical access for emergency services.

See [here](#) for information on RAISE projects that were announced earlier this year.

### ***Ports Project Spotlight***

#### **Port of Nome**

Overview: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded \$250 million to the Port of Nome for modifications that will allow larger vessels to access the harbor and strengthen supply chains.

See [here](#) for the full list of U.S. Army Corps projects announced earlier this year.

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

#### **Shishmaref Community Flood Protection and Water Supply**

Overview: The Department of Agriculture awarded \$8.8 million to Shishmaref, a traditional Inupiat village located on Sarichef Island, which is threatened by erosion, floods, and other impacts of climate change. The project will reduce the impact of flooding and support water supply, one of several projects to support flood protection in rural Alaskan communities.

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

