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President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in the Northern Mariana Islands

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 the Northern Mariana Islands. To date, \$62.3 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to the Northern Mariana Islands. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, the Northern Mariana Islands are set to receive nearly \$16 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and nearly \$21 million for clean water. And, as of today, about 3,300 households across the Northern Mariana Islands 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 the Northern Mariana Islands, the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for residents and position the Northern Mariana Islands for success.

Roads and Bridges: 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 Northern Mariana Islands, which often may rely on a single bridge for the passage of emergency service vehicles. 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, the Northern Mariana Islands is expected to receive approximately \$24 million over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$7.7 million has been announced in Northern Mariana Islands for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:

- \$4.6 million through the Territorial Highway Program funding in 2022.
- \$3.1 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. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. The Northern Mariana Islands will receive a minimum allocation of at least \$25 million to help ensure high-speed internet coverage across the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Affordable Connectivity Program 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.

- **Progress to date:** About 3,300 households in the Northern Mariana Islands 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, nearly \$21 million is available in fiscal year 2022 to provide clean and safe water across the Northern Mariana Islands. Of this funding, \$8 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$5 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, the Northern Mariana Islands would expect to receive more than \$7 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the territory.¹ This funding will expand healthy, sustainable transportation options in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, the Northern Mariana Islands has been allocated \$1.5 million to improve public transportation options in fiscal year 2022.

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, and carbon capture, as well as a historic \$3.5 billion investment in weatherization to lower energy costs for families while improving energy efficiency of homes.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$4.6 million has been allocated to Northern Mariana Islands for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022. This includes:
 - \$915,000 for weatherization;
 - \$2.5 million through the State Energy Program;
 - \$1.2 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. Our ports and waterways are in need of repair and reimagination too. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$17 billion in port infrastructure and \$25 billion in airports to strengthen our supply chains, address maintenance backlogs, and reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports – ultimately helping our country move goods and people more quickly and at lower cost.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, the Northern Mariana Islands has received more than \$6 million in 2022 for airports.

Resilience: Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change and extreme weather every day. More frequent hurricanes, wildfires, heat waves, and floods, unprecedented power outages, and persistent droughts devastate our communities and threaten our infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a \$50 billion 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, nearly \$21 million has been allocated to the Northern Mariana Islands for infrastructure resilience in 2022.

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.

THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

Watershed Project Spotlight

Supplement to Kagman Watershed Plan

Overview: The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$21 million to strengthen safeguards against flooding, enhance irrigation infrastructure, and secure marine habitats in the Kagman watershed. The watershed includes waterways, a reservoir, and an irrigation water delivery system, among other features.

See [here](#) for the full list of BIL watershed projects announced earlier this year.

Airport Project Spotlight

Francisco C Ada/Saipan International

Overview: The Department of Transportation awarded nearly \$4 million to Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to improve the airport. This flexible funding can support projects to modernize infrastructure, improve safety, or address maintenance needs.

See [here](#) for the full list of Airport Infrastructure Grant projects announced earlier this year.

Port Infrastructure Project Spotlight

The US Department of Transportation awarded the Commonwealth Ports Authority a \$3.1 million Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to support planning work for Saipan Harbor Navigation Improvements. This planning project will study potential navigational improvements in the Saipan Harbor, for two potential future projects: 1) the extension of Charlie-1 Dock, and 2) associated dredging to allow larger vessels to dock at the port, including cruise ships and updated liquid bulk vessels. This project will help address the most urgent and systemic safety challenges at the facility by expanding port capacity. It will also boost economic competitiveness by allowing the port to serve additional ferries, cruise ships, and cargo vessels. The effort will consider innovative technologies during the planning and construction phase, such as using locally dredged materials for project construction to reduce costs and reduce the impact on local marine life. The RAISE program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Airport Infrastructure Project Spotlight

The Federal Aviation administration awarded \$3.8 million in an Airport Infrastructure Grant for improvements to the Francisco C Ada/Saipan International to reconstruct perimeter fencing at the airport. The Airport Infrastructure Grant program, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, supports airport-related projects including runways, taxiways, safety and sustainability projects, as well as terminal, airport-transit connections and roadway projects.