

**PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

# **BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA**

**BUILD.GOV**

## **President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in the U.S. Virgin 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 U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, more than \$144 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, the U.S. Virgin Islands is set to receive nearly \$54 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and nearly \$32 million for clean water. And, as of today, over 3,200 households across the U.S. Virgin 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 U.S. Virgin Islands, the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for residents and position the U.S. Virgin 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 U.S. Virgin 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 U.S. Virgin Islands is expected to receive approximately \$96 million over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$43.4 million has been announced in U.S. Virgin Islands for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$18.4 million in highway formula funding in 2022 and 2023.

- \$25 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 U.S. Virgin Islands will receive a minimum allocation of at least \$25 million to help ensure high-speed internet coverage across the U.S. Virgin 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:** Over 3,200 households in the U.S. Virgin 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 \$32 million is available in fiscal year 2022 to provide clean and safe water across the U.S. Virgin Islands. Of this funding, \$13.6 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$8.6 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 U.S. Virgin Islands would expect to receive more than \$16 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the territory.<sup>1</sup> This funding will expand healthy, sustainable transportation options in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, the U.S. Virgin Islands has been allocated \$3.4 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

---

<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.

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:** \$5.3 million has been allocated to U.S. Virgin Islands for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022. This includes:
  - \$1.7 million for weatherization;
  - \$2.6 million through the State Energy Program;
  - \$1 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:** \$5.9 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:** \$450,000 in 2022 for ports and waterways.

**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, approximately \$53.1 million has been allocated to U.S. Virgin Islands for infrastructure resilience in 2022 including \$52.2 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.

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

## THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

### ***Watershed Project Spotlight***

#### **Reducing Flood Risk in Charlotte Amalie**

Overview: The Army Corps of Engineers will invest \$51.7 million to complete a project to reduce flood risk and damage in the Savan Gut area of Charlotte Amalie. The area is within the 100-year flood plain and has recurring flooding problems primarily in the central business district and local elementary school. The project will involve the construction of a covered channel, as well as bridge replacement, to reduce the risk of flooding.

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

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

#### **Cyril E King Airport**

Overview: The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration awarded nearly \$4 million to Cyril E King 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.

### ***RAISE Grant Program Project Spotlight***

#### **Veterans Drive Improvements Phase 2**

Overview: This \$25 million grant from DOT will fund the second phase of the Charlotte Amalie Waterfront Revitalization Program: The Veterans Drive (Route 30) Improvements Project. Phase II will extend for about 1 mile, from Hospital Gade to Kronprindsens Tvaer Gade (Windward Passage Hotel), and construct a tree-lined four-lane roadway, divided by a raised median, as well as a new, resilient seawall and promenade. This project will reduce traffic congestion in downtown Amalie and facilitate tourism by connecting more businesses and hotels to ferry, port, or plane terminals. Decreased traffic and new pedestrian walkways will also increase safety on the island.

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