

**PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

# **BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA**

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## **President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in U.S. Virgin Islands**

As of February 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 U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, \$146.6 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to U.S. Virgin Islands with over 8 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, U.S. Virgin Islands will receive approximately \$54.2 million for transportation to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports and roughly \$32 million for clean water. And, as of today, more than 4,000 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 U.S. Virgin Islands – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and position the state for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** In U.S. Virgin Islands, there are 0 bridges and over 0 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, 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, \$18.4 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.

- \$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. U.S. Virgin Islands 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 0 households in U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 4,000 households in 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:** 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, \$32 million has been announced to U.S. Virgin Islands to provide clean and safe water across the state and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$32 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, \$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 and 2023.

**Public Transit:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on formula funding alone, U.S. Virgin Islands would expect to receive approximately \$17 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the state.<sup>1</sup>

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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, U.S. Virgin Islands has been allocated \$3.4 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.

**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.

**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 \$6.9 million has been allocated to U.S. Virgin Islands for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022 and 2023. This includes:
  - \$1.7 million for weatherization;
  - \$2.6 million through the State Energy Program;
  - \$1.6 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
  - \$1.1 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 enhanced traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, U.S. Virgin Islands has received approximately \$6 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, U.S. Virgin Islands has received roughly \$450.5,000 in 2022 and 2023 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, floods, unprecedented power outages, and persistent droughts devastate our communities and threaten our infrastructure. 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 \$53.6 million has been allocated to U.S. Virgin Islands for infrastructure resilience in 2022 and 2023 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.

## **U.S. Virgin Islands Project Spotlights**

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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.