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# INVESTING IN AMERICA

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

As of June 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 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). To date, \$115.8 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to the CNMI with over 12 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, approximately \$23.9 million has been announced for transportation – to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports – and roughly \$62 million has been announced for clean water. And, as of today, more than 3,000 households across the territory 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 the CNMI– including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve the lives of the people of the territory and position them for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** 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 CNMI 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 the CNMI for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$4.6 million in highway formula funding in 2022 and 2023.
  - \$3.1 million through the RAISE program in 2022 and 2023.

*Announced Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is as of May 26, 2023*

**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 CNMI will receive a minimum allocation of at least \$100 million to help ensure high-speed internet coverage across the territory. 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. The Affordable Connectivity Program cuts internet bills by up to \$30 per month per household and provides a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device (laptop, tablet or desktop computer).

- **Progress to date:** To date, the CNMI has received \$1.3 million through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) to help provide access to high-speed internet across the territory. In addition, about 3,000 households in the CNMI 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, \$62 million has been announced to the CNMI to provide clean and safe water across the territory and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$62 million available in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to provide clean and safe water across the territory through the Environmental Protection Agency. Of this funding, \$11.6 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$14.6 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, the CNMI would expect to receive approximately \$7 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the territory.<sup>1</sup>

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, the CNMI has been allocated \$1.5 million to improve public transportation options across the territory in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

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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.

**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.

**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 \$7.4 million has been allocated to the CNMI for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022 and 2023. This includes:
  - \$914.5,000 for weatherization;
  - \$2.5 million through the State Energy Program;
  - \$1.5 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
  - \$2.4 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 U.S. become more economically competitive globally, creates good jobs, and revitalizes and supports more efficient and enhanced traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, the CNMI has received approximately \$13.9 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.

**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 \$21.5 million has been allocated to the CNMI for infrastructure resilience in 2022 and 2023.

**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 CNMI Project Spotlights

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

#### **Tinian International Airport**

The Department of Transportation awarded over \$1 million to Tinian International Airport to improve the airport's facilities. This flexible funding can support projects modernize terminal infrastructure, improve safety, or address maintenance needs.

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

## ***Port Infrastructure Project Spotlight***

### **Saipan Harbor Navigation Improvements**

The 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 C-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 the port's 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.

See [here](#) for more information on awarded grants through the RAISE program.

## ***Airport Project Spotlight***

### **Francisco C Ada/Saipan International**

The Department of Transportation awarded over \$7.6 million to Francisco C. Ada & Saipan International Airport to improve the airport's facilities. This flexible funding can support projects to modernize terminal infrastructure, improve safety, or address maintenance needs.

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