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# INVESTING IN AMERICA

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## President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Puerto Rico

As of March 2024

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 Puerto Rico. To date, \$2.2 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Puerto Rico with over 78 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, approximately \$864.8 million has been announced for transportation – to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports – and roughly \$248 million has been announced for clean water and water infrastructure. Puerto Rico received \$778.7 million to connect everyone in the territory to reliable high-speed internet and, as of today, more than 665,000 Puerto Rico households are already saving on their monthly internet bill 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 Puerto Rico – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve the lives of Puerto Ricans and position the territory for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** In Puerto Rico, there are 312 bridges and over 1,629 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, Puerto Rico is expected to receive approximately \$1.1 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** \$428.6 million has been announced in Puerto Rico for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$226.3 million in highway formula funding and \$135 million in dedicated formula funding for bridges to date.

*Announced Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is as of March 7, 2024*

- \$28 million through the RAISE program to date.
- \$90 million through the INFRA program to date.

**Internet:** High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet over 61,871 homes and small businesses in Puerto Rico do not have access to high-speed internet infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to everyone in America. The Biden-Harris Administration worked 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. Now, the Biden-Harris Administration is calling on Congress to extend this program through 2024. Without action from Congress, millions of Americans will lose their internet connection and the economic opportunities that come with it. See ACP enrollment for every state and territory [here](#).

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Puerto Rico has received \$778.7 million for high-speed internet. Puerto Rico has received \$334.6 million through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to provide access to high-speed internet to everyone in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico also received \$9.3 million in funding to expand middle-mile infrastructure in the territory. In addition, about 665,000 households in Puerto Rico are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

**Water:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the largest investment in water infrastructure in American history, including the first-ever dedicated federal funding to replace lead service lines and address dangerous PFAS chemicals.

- **Announced funding to date:** \$248 million has been announced to Puerto Rico to provide clean and safe water across the territory and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$248 million available to date to provide clean and safe water across the territory through the Environmental Protection Agency. Of this funding, \$57 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$62 million for safe drinking water investments that can also support lead pipe replacement.

**Public Transit:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on formula funding alone, Puerto Rico would expect to receive approximately \$473 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the territory.<sup>1</sup> This funding will expand healthy,

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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.

sustainable transportation options in Puerto Rico and 31% of transit vehicles in the territory are currently past useful life.

- **Announced funding to date:** Puerto Rico has been allocated \$219.2 million to improve public transportation options across the territory.

**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. Announced funding to date will double the number of clean transit buses on America's roads.

- **Announced funding to date:** Schools in Puerto Rico have been awarded \$9.9 million through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program. Communities in Puerto Rico were awarded \$20 million for clean transit buses and improved bus service through DOT's Low- and No- Emission Bus and Bus and Bus Facilities 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, Puerto Rico should expect to receive roughly \$14 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the territory.

- **Announced funding to date:** \$59.3 million has been announced in Puerto Rico to date to build out a network of EV chargers in the territory.

**Clean Energy & Power:** Power outages cost the U.S. economy about \$150 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:** Approximately \$61.3 million has been allocated to Puerto Rico for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power. This includes:
  - \$37.9 million for weatherization;

- \$4.7 million through the State Energy Program;
- \$5.6 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
- \$11 million to prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient.

**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:** Puerto Rico has received approximately \$76.7 million for airports.

**Ports and Waterways:** 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:** Puerto Rico has received roughly \$46.6 million 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. In the last decade, Puerto Rico has experienced 4 extreme weather events, costing the territory up to \$154 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:** Approximately \$257 million has been allocated to Puerto Rico for infrastructure resilience including \$61.7 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:** \$14.1 million has been allocated to cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites.

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

## **Puerto Rico Project Spotlights**

### ***Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Spotlight***

#### **Puerto Rico Corridors: Alternative Charging and Fueling Infrastructure for All**

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded more than \$51 million to install fast electric-vehicle charging ports at 10 locations along a major roadway designed as an Alternative Fuel Corridor. All charging stations will be within one mile of highway exits and less than 30 miles from each other.

See [here](#) for a full list of Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant projects.

### ***RAISE Project Spotlight***

#### **Avenue C Project**

The Department of Transportation awarded \$3 million to Puerto Rico Ports Authority to fund a feasibility study, environmental risk review, and community involvement program for improvements to Avenue C, the only access roadway serving the Port's eastern eight wharves. The project will plan a more resilient roadway for port access, particularly during natural disasters, and will bring the roadway into a state of good repair.

See [here](#) for a full list of RAISE projects.

## ***Middle Mile Project Spotlight***

### **Strengthening of the Telecommunications Core Infrastructure of LCPR**

The Department of Commerce awarded \$9.3 million to Liberty Communications of Puerto Rico to fund 63 miles of new middle mile infrastructure in geographies where the applicant has been awarded Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund ('Uniendo') from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for last-mile services. The Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program plays a critical role in providing quality, affordable high-speed Internet and connecting unserved regions to the Internet backbone.

See [here](#) for more information on the Middle Mile Grant Program.

## ***Ecosystem Restoration Project Spotlight***

### **Caño Martín Peña Ecosystem Restoration**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has allocated \$163 million to complete the Caño Martín Peña Ecosystem Restoration Project. The implementation of the project includes dredging approximately 2.2 miles of the Caño Martín Peña (CMP) canal; shoreline stabilization and erosion control features; and planting of approximately 35 acres of mangroves. Restoration of the CMP will re-establish the tidal connection between the San José Lagoon and the San Juan Bay, which will improve dissolved oxygen levels and salinity stratification, increase biodiversity by restoring fish habitat and benthic conditions, and improve the functional value of mangrove habitat within the San Juan Bay Estuary.

See [here](#) for a list of Army Corps projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## ***Superfund Investment Spotlight***

### **Dorado Ground Water Contamination**

Overview: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the second wave of approximately \$1 billion in funding to start new cleanup projects at 22 Superfund sites, including addressing the contaminated groundwater at the Dorado Groundwater Contamination Superfund site. Because contaminants are being effectively broken down now through nature processes, EPA in consultation with The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) will monitor those processes to protect public health and welfare of the environment.

See [here](#) for the full list of Superfund Investment sites.

## ***Airport Project Spotlight***

### **Rafael Hernandez Airport**

The Rafael Hernandez Airport has been awarded a total of \$9.6 million to fund a portion of a terminal rehabilitation project. In the 2023 and 2024 grants, funding will go toward adding a second level departure hall, which includes four new gates, and constructing a 12,000 square feet Customs and Border Protection facility to process international arrivals.

See [here](#) for a map and list of the Airport Terminal Awards.

## ***Transportation INFRA Grant Project Spotlight***

### **PR-2 Improvement**

The Department of Transportation awarded \$90 million to improve a 1.4-mile segment along PR-2 in Mayaguez to reconfigure the roadway and intersections to improve safety for transit users, pedestrians and cyclists in historically disadvantaged communities.

See [here](#) for the full list of INFRA Grants announced.

## ***Clean Bus Project Spotlight***

### **Metropolitan Bus Authority Electric Buses**

The Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded \$10 million to the Metropolitan Bus Authority to buy battery electric buses to replace older diesel busses and build a solar power charging station to bring sustainable transit to the island.

See [here](#) for the full list of FTA's Low- and No-Emission and Bus and Bus Facilities Program.