DELIVERING RESULTS FOR AMERICA

USDOT Progress Report: 2021–2024 Update

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Letter from the Secretary

Over the past 4 years, the Biden-Harris Administration has enacted an agenda of historic proportions, taking action to rescue key parts of the transportation sector from crisis, strengthen supply chains, help bring down pandemic-fueled inflation, and fund major improvements to our infrastructure that are putting this country on a path toward a safer, more sustainable future. In the coming years, tens of thousands more infrastructure projects will be completed thanks to work that began at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) in 2021 and ushered in an infrastructure decade unlike anything this country has seen since the mid-twentieth century.

I'm most proud of that fact that, thanks to our efforts, America's transportation system is in much better condition than when we found it. When we took office in January 2021, airlines were fighting for survival. Global supply chains were unraveling and ships were backing up. Road fatalities spiked to record levels.

Under the leadership of President Biden, USDOT responded decisively and collaboratively. Our nation's ports emerged from crisis and went on move record levels of cargo, with shipping costs decreased, and goods being delivered on time. As a direct result of these improvements, inflation has been significantly reduced, providing relief to American consumers and businesses. Airports around the U.S. have experienced their busiest travel days ever, and we've seen road deaths drop for more than 2 years straight.

With funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, American workers are advancing more than 66,000 infrastructure projects—and counting—nationwide, including the

construction and repair of roughly 11,400 bridges and over 196,000 miles of roads.[1] 16,000 projects that received USDOT funding are already completed or well on their way. We are making the largest investments in public transit and passenger rail in generations, upgrading our ports, modernizing our airports, and helping communities carry out their visions for more walkable and connected communities. Long-promised projects like the rebuilding and expansion of the Brent Spence Bridge between Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky are finally underway, and transformational projects like the Brightline West high-speed passenger rail project connecting Las Vegas, Nevada, and Southern California are becoming a reality.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is strengthening our economy and creating good jobs. Through the Buy America provisions, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in America. As a result, our investments in infrastructure are part of the 1.6 million manufacturing and construction jobs added during the Biden-Harris Administration.

We are also making significant strides in transportation safety. Safety is at the core of our mission, and we are providing lifesaving funding and technical assistance to communities across the country to ensure safer roads for everyone. We have raised vehicle safety standards, accelerated the deployment of new safety technologies such as automatic emergency braking (AEB), and allocated billions of dollars to enhance roadway safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike, including projects to improve road and intersection design. We are proud to report that traffic fatalities have decreased for ten consecutive quarters after a sharp increase that began in 2019. The basis for this work is laid out in the comprehensive National Roadway Safety Strategy that we launched in January 2022, which provides a roadmap to achieving the only acceptable number of deaths on our roads: zero. That ambitious goal may not be reached overnight, but in adopting and by elevating the attention and urgency of the crisis of road fatalities in America, we commit to moving toward it until it is achieved.

In addition to deploying historic funding to modernize and upgrade America's rail infrastructure, we have taken unprecedented actions to improve rail safety. We refused to accept the status quo of near-daily derailments that have plagued our railways for decades. To address this issue, we have conducted thousands of inspections; raised safety and labor standards to protect travelers, workers, and communities; invested billions of dollars from

1 All data in this report are as of November 15, 2024.

the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in rail safety projects; and pushed Congress to adopt comprehensive safety reforms.

In aviation, we are funding new runways, terminals, and aviation safety technologies needed to run the U.S. airspace, which is the safest, most efficient, and complex airspace in the world—while continuing to call on Congress to make needed long-term equipment investments. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has revitalized the recruitment and training pipeline for new air traffic controllers and met its ambitious goal of 1,800 new controllers this year, with an even more aggressive target for 2025, and the number of qualified controllers has stabilized and begun to rise after decades of decline. Today, airline cancellation rates are lower than before the pandemic. We have taken historic enforcement actions and secured agreements from airlines on a significant number of passenger rights protections, including ensuring that airlines provide automatic refunds as well as hotels, meals, rebooking, and more when an airline causes a significant delay or cancellation, and ensuring that passengers in wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity.

We have also responded to emergencies and disasters that have threatened communities, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted supply chains. Our Department played a critical role in the robust federal response to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, providing funding for emergency road repairs and supporting recovery efforts. When a section of I-95 in Philadelphia was destroyed by fire, we provided funding and technical assistance to Pennsylvania so that this critical corridor could reopen in less than 2 weeks. And, when the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed, we worked with federal and state emergency service partners to clear access to the Port of Baltimore, a key port of entry for goods, in less than 100 days.

In addition to addressing immediate challenges, we have launched groundbreaking initiatives to ensure that more people have safe and equal access to transportation. We are addressing gaps in transportation infrastructure and public services by working toward the goal that at least 40 percent of the benefits from our programs flow to communities that have historically been underfunded. We made the first federal investments in community-led projects to reconnect neighborhoods divided by past infrastructure decisions, initiated the first federal effort to make our transportation infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of severe weather and climate change, and launched the first federal funding program to create a national network of electric vehicle chargers, creating universal standards and distributing funds to states and communities to build charging locations over the years to come.

Safety

SAFETY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Reduced traffic fatalities ten quarters in a row after they began to spike in 2019 and peaked in the first quarter of 2022, with policies and programs in place to keep reducing fatalities further.
- Established automatic emergency braking (AEB) rules for passenger cars and light trucks that will save more than 360 lives a year and prevent more than 24,000 injuries annually.
- Advanced community safety with nearly $3 billion in funding invested in more than 1,600 roadway safety projects and plans at the local, regional, and Tribal levels through the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Increased rail safety by finalizing a rule that ensures trains are safely staffed by establishing minimum safety requirements for the size of train crews, codifying crew staffing rules at a federal level and ensuring that freight and passenger rail operations are governed by consistent safety rules in all states. The new rule will enhance safety in the rail industry by generally requiring and emphasizing the importance and necessity of a second crewmember on all trains.
- Hired more than 3,300 new air traffic controllers in just the past 2 years.

MAKING ROADS AND VEHICLES SAFER FOR ALL

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is committed to the ambitious long-term goal of reaching zero roadway fatalities and has adopted the Safe System Approach to help address the crisis on our roadways. Our National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS), released in January 2022, sets forth a comprehensive plan to move us closer to our zero-deaths goal. To meet this goal, we have launched historic new safety programs and issued new safety rules and policies that will make it safer for people to walk and bike and travel by car, truck, and bus.

USDOT's work to improve road safety includes:

- **Reducing Traffic Fatalities:** We helped reduce traffic fatalities ten quarters in a row, after 42,939 lives were lost on our roadways in 2021, with policies in place to keep reducing further and reach the ambitious goal of zero roadway deaths. (NHTSA, December 2024)
- **Funding Safe Streets and Roads for All:** We announced $2.9 billion in funding to improve roadway safety at the local, regional, and Tribal levels through the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant program. More than 1,600 communities were awarded funding, covering around 75 percent of all Americans. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Partnering for Safety:** We secured commitments from over 180 partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors who responded to our NRSS Call to Action. (USDOT, September 2024)
- **Improving Rural Road Safety:** We announced $919 million in grants from the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program to help communities around the country complete transportation projects that will increase mobility, improve safety, and generate regional economic growth in rural areas. (FHWA, December 2023) (FHWA, December 2022)
- **Improving Safety on Tribal Lands:** We announced more than $108 million in grants to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries on Tribal and federal lands in 2024 through programs like the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects and the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes $13 billion specifically for Tribal communities to improve infrastructure on Tribal lands and provide technical assistance to Tribes. (FHWA, June 2024) (USDOT, December 2022)

- **Building Bicycling and Walking Trails:** We offered up to $44.5 million through the newly established Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program for projects to help communities provide safe, healthy, sustainable, equitable, and enjoyable transportation options with networks of connected bicycling and walking trails. (FHWA, March 2024)
- **Updating the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD):** We released an updated edition of the MUTCD, which will help our state and local partners make it safer to walk, bike, and drive and deploy new technologies on our roadways. (FHWA, December 2023)
- **Expanding Access to Truck Parking:** We provided more than $160 million in funding for truck safety initiatives through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) High Priority Projects program. We also invested more than $80 million in new truck parking spaces across the country through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) grant programs to improve highway safety and support truck drivers. (FMCSA, September 2024) (FMCSA, September 2022) (FMCSA, September 2023)
- **Updating New Car Safety Rating Program:** We made significant updates to our 5-Star Safety Ratings program to include several new and emerging safety technologies and vehicle safety features that will help protect people both inside and outside a vehicle. The changes will speed up adoption of technologies that reduce the frequency and severity of crashes while helping consumers make informed decisions about buying a new car. (NHTSA, November 2024)
- **Protecting Pedestrians:** We proposed a new rule requiring that new passenger vehicles be designed to reduce the risk of serious-to-fatal injuries in child and adult pedestrian crashes by establishing test procedures and performance requirements to minimize the risk of head injuries. (NHTSA, September 2024)
- **Combatting Alcohol-Impaired Driving:** We released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to take the first step toward a new safety standard requiring alcohol-impaired-driving prevention technology in new passenger vehicles. (NHTSA, December 2023)

- **Protecting Rear-Seat Passengers:** We finalized a new rule requiring seat belt use warnings for rear seats and enhanced warnings for driver and front passenger seats on all new passenger cars, light trucks, and certain buses, which will prevent more than 500 injuries and save about 50 lives every year. (NHTSA, December 2024)
- **Accelerating the Deployment of New Safety Technology:** We finalized a new rule to require AEB systems on all new passenger cars and light trucks, which will save at least 360 lives and prevent 24,000 injuries a year. We also proposed AEB standards for heavy trucks. (NHTSA, April 2024) (NHTSA, June 2023)
- **Taking Action on Vehicle Safety:** We made sure vehicle owners receive safe, free, and effective remedies from manufacturers according to the Safety Act and federal regulations by overseeing 1,000 recalls in just 1 year for vehicles, car seats, tires, recreational vehicles, and other potentially defective equipment (NHTSA, March 2024)

SUPPORTING SAFE STREETS IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

Protected bike lane on Higgins Ave in Missoula, MT. Source: City of Missoula.

Missoula, Montana, is improving the safety of its streets with the help of a $9.3 million Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. As Missoula has grown, traffic along the South Avenue corridor has increased significantly. The grant will fund several safety improvements along this heavily trafficked corridor to help accommodate drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike. Safety improvements include separated bike lanes and sidewalks as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant bus stops. The project will help improve access to the growing number of grocery stores, restaurants, shopping malls, parks, and schools along the corridor.

The community-driven process to develop and design the project has helped cultivate relationships that ensure the design considers the needs of all users. County Commissioner Josh Slotnick explained that the project will "make for a huge physical change for the folks who live, work, and play around South Avenue in the Fort Missoula Regional Park area, and the folks who live on Clements Street where the kids walk to school. This is a giant safety increase." (Missoula Current, July 2023)

IMPROVING RAIL SAFETY

To ensure the safety of communities and workers and address the stubborn rate of derailments across the United States, USDOT has significantly stepped up railroad safety by deploying funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, holding railroads accountable, raising rail safety standards, and supporting first responders and rail workers.

USDOT's work to improve railroad safety includes:

- **Raising Rail Safety Standards:** We issued a long-awaited rule that ensures trains are safely staffed by establishing minimum safety requirements for the size of train crews, codifying crew staffing rules at a federal level, and ensuring that freight and passenger rail operations are governed by consistent safety rules in all states. The new rule will enhance safety in the rail industry by generally requiring a second crew member on all trains. We also finalized new regulations requiring railroads to develop certification and training programs for train dispatchers and signal employees to ensure these workers are qualified and fit for duty. (FRA, April 2024) (FRA, June 2024)
- **Improving Railroad Crossing Safety:** Through the first ever Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, we awarded $570 million to 32 states to eliminate or improve more than 400 at-grade crossings—making our roads and railways safer, while also helping countless Americans save time on their commutes. (FRA, June 2024)
- **Holding Railroads Accountable:** Following the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, we conducted more than 7,500 inspections to assess the condition of track and signal and train control infrastructure, equipment, and operating practices along High-Hazard Flammable Train (HHFT) routes and along routes where large quantities of hazardous materials travel. (FRA, June 2024)
- **Improving Working Conditions:** We are also examining the safety culture of each Class I railroad and recommending ways to improve their cultures. Since the Administration joined the rail unions' push for paid sick leave, approximately 90 percent of Class I freight railroad workers now have paid sick time, a significant improvement from about 5% who had coverage at the end of 2022. (FRA, June 2024)
- **Identifying Rail Safety Issues:** After Secretary Buttigieg pressed them, all Class I freight railroads agreed to participate in the Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS) for rail employees to help identify and better prevent safety issues. (FRA, June 2024)

- **Protecting Train Crew Safety:** We issued a final rule ensuring that train crews and employees on board trains carrying hazardous materials (hazmat) have emergency escape breathing apparatuses, which will help protect these workers during emergency events. (FRA, January 2024)
- **Providing First Responders with Real-Time Hazmat Information:** We required railroads to proactively provide first responders with real-time information about rail hazmat shipments so that firefighters and other first responders can better protect themselves and their communities. (PHMSA, June 2024)

IMPROVING AVIATION SAFETY

U.S. air travel is the safest mode of transportation in the world. Every day, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) helps ensure the safety of more than 45,000 flights and millions of airline passengers. The ten busiest days in airport travel history occurred in 2024, with the Sunday after Thanksgiving 2024 setting a record with more than three million Americans screened by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at U.S. airports—the largest number to date. But with aging infrastructure and an increasingly complex airspace accommodating record air travel and an exponential growth in commercial space launches, we must act to make sure air travel stays safe and efficient by advancing new technologies, improving air traffic controls, and modernizing airports and airfields.

USDOT's work to improve air travel safety includes:

- **Strengthening Oversight of Aircraft Manufacturing:** In response to the January 5, 2024, Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 MAX door plug incident, FAA stepped up its oversight of Boeing and its suppliers, directing Boeing to develop a comprehensive action plan to set a new standard for safety and how the company does business. (FAA, August 2024)
- **Increasing Air Traffic Controller Hiring:** We met our goal of hiring 1,800 additional controllers in fiscal year 2024. Air traffic control is one of the most specialized and skilled professions in the federal government, and there are now 3,400 controllers in training to work at FAA's air traffic facilities. (FAA, September 2024)

- **Requiring Aviation Organizations to Detect, Address Safety Risks Early:** We issued new requirements for charter airlines, commuter airlines, air tour operators, and certain aircraft manufacturers to implement a Safety Management System (SMS). By using SMS, these aviation organizations will be better able to proactively identify hazards and manage safety risks. (FAA, April 2024)
- **Improving Runway Safety:** : We issued a Safety Call to Action and held a safety summit with 200 safety leaders from across the aviation industry to discuss ways to drive down the incidence of all runway incursions. We also fast-tracked the development and implementation of runway safety technologies, such as new airfield surveillance systems that provide air traffic controllers with timely and accurate depictions of aircraft and vehicles on the entire airfield, in all weather conditions. (FAA, January 2024) (FAA, April 2024)

IMPROVING PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

From methane leaks to cybersecurity vulnerabilities, aging pipelines threaten public health and safety, and being forced to repair or replace them can impose significant costs on ratepayers—especially in an emergency. That's why the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has expanded oversight, improved safety, and promoted innovation when it comes to America's 3.3 million miles of regulated pipelines.

USDOT's work to improve pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety includes:

- **Modernizing Gas Pipelines:** We have announced nearly $800 million in grants to support 227 projects aimed at fixing aging natural gas pipelines, helping reduce air pollution and reducing costs for ratepayers in 29 states through the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM) grant program, which was created in President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The grants are being used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace more than 1,000 miles of pipe, helping lower energy costs for ratepayers, reduce methane pollution, and keep communities safe from pipeline failures. (PHMSA, October 2024)

- **Streamlining Environmental Reviews to Fix Gas Pipes:** We streamlined the application of federal environmental review requirements so that recipients of NGDISM grants will be able to take advantage of a more efficient federal environmental review process for communities to quickly fix older, leak-prone natural gas pipes. (PHMSA, August 2024)
- **Enforcing Pipeline Safety:** In 2023, we issued over $12.5 million in proposed civil penalties against operators who violated safety regulations—the highest yearly amount in proposed penalties in PHMSA's history. We also reduced our average time to initiate and fully close enforcement cases by approximately 40 percent. (PHMSA, January 2024)
- **Increasing Hazmat Training for First Responders:** We provided an additional $41 million in funding for community pipeline and hazardous materials safety programs that will double hazmat training for firefighters. (PHMSA, August 2024)

Economic Strength and Global Competitiveness

ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Nearly $570 billion to fund more than 66,000 infrastructure projects across the country have been announced across the Biden-Harris Administration.
- Announced funding for over 580 port and waterway projects through USDOT or the Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen supply chains, speed up the movement of goods, lower costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Launched roughly 11,400 bridge repair projects and funded improvements on over 196,000 miles of roads.
- Funded emergency recovery efforts to respond to Hurricane Helene, as well as the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Maryland and the I-95 collapse in Philadelphia.

Thanks to funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, more than 66,000 projects are underway in all 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories. These projects are repairing and improving roads and bridges, upgrading ports to be more efficient, modernizing airport terminals, making America's roads safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists, expanding public transit and passenger rail services, upgrading freight rail assets, and more. Together, these projects are strengthening the American economy by fortifying supply chains and lowering costs, improving America's global competitiveness, creating good-paying jobs, and unlocking economic opportunity for communities of all sizes, including rural and Tribal communities.

STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS

With the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc on supply chains, among the first actions President Biden took was to create the Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force, and USDOT brought together ports, unions, and companies to address the biggest issues. As a result, critical supply chains are significantly more resilient and reliable than they were before the start of the Biden-Harris Administration.

USDOT has taken a number of aggressive steps to build more resilient supply chains through both historic infrastructure investments and unprecedented private-public partnerships to better protect against shocks to the system, speed up the movement of goods, and lower costs for families. We've modernized ports and rail lines, created secure data sharing systems to better anticipate shipments, supported careers in trucking, and more, spurring all-time highs in goods moving through our ports. The Biden-Harris Administration's steady efforts to improve supply chains have helped to lower inflation across the economy—with supply chains accounting for more than 80 percent of the fall in inflation seen in 2023. (White House Council of Economic Advisors, November 2023)

USDOT's work to strengthen our supply chains includes:

- **Modernizing Ports and Marine Highways:** We made more than $1.4 billion available since 2021 to modernize ports and strengthen supply chains through the Port Infrastructure Development Program and the U.S. Marine Highway Program part of the historic $17 billion included in the infrastructure law specifically to strengthen coastal and inland waterway ports, reduce emissions, and ease landside congestion. (MARAD, March 2024) (MARAD, July 2024)
- **Designating New Marine Highway Routes:** We designated two new Marine Highway Routes that added nearly 7,000 miles to the marine highway system to increase the use of America's waterways, relieve landside congestion, speed up the movement of goods, strengthen supply chains, and support local economies in Alaska, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. (MARAD, August 2023)

- **Improving Supply Chain Data Sharing:** We partnered with more than 80 companies, including the nation's busiest container ports, major ocean carriers, and some of the largest retail importers to share supply chain data—something that has never been done before and has enormous potential to make supply chains more efficient and bring down costs for American families. The Freight Logistics Optimizations Works (FLOW) initiative is a first-of-its-kind private-public partnership created and led by USDOT that creates a more complete, shared picture of the U.S. supply chain for its members. (USDOT, August 2024) (USDOT, September 2024)
- **Harmonizing Regulations to Reduce Shipping Costs:** We announced a new Final Rule that harmonizes federal regulations on shipping hazardous materials with international standards. The action improves safety, streamlines the transport of essential products—including medical supplies, batteries, and components used in manufacturing—and encourages shippers to package goods more efficiently. The streamlined requirements will save an estimated $50 -130 million in shipping costs. (PHMSA, April 2024)
- **Modernizing and Expanding Airport Terminals:** We announced nearly $15 billion in airport funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This includes nearly $4 billion through the Airport Terminals Program for over 400 airport terminal projects, over 200 of which are under construction or complete. (White House, 2024)

DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

When disasters impact our transportation system anywhere in our country, USDOT works closely with emergency responders and local governments to help communities respond and recover quickly.

I-95 COLLAPSE AND RECOVERY

Interstate 95 (I-95) is one of America's busiest highways and an essential corridor for both regional commuters and interstate freight movement. On June 11, 2023, an elevated section of I-95 in Northeast Philadelphia collapsed when a tanker truck exiting the interstate crashed and exploded.

Experts said it would be closed for months, but USDOT and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) took immediate action. Within hours of the collapse, USDOT safety investigators were on the ground, and within days, USDOT released federal emergency funding to begin the cleanup and recovery. With this support, PennDOT rebuilt the collapsed section in a matter of weeks. Less than two weeks after the collapse, work crews completed six temporary lanes of highway, allowing cars and trucks to travel safely in both directions while work on a permanent fix got underway. In May 2024, transportation officials celebrated the completion of permanent repairs less than 1 year after the collapse. (USDOT, January 2024) (American Progress, December 2023) (PennDOT, May 2024)

> "I am proud to say we built this. We actually got it done in 12 days. I am a Philadelphia native. I've helped build this city." Sherice Workman, Union Carpenter, Local 158

Source: Key Bridge Response Unified Command, 2024.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE CATASTROPHE

On March 26, 2024, a container ship leaving the Port of Baltimore struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing the 1.6 mile-long bridge to collapse, killing six workers. For nearly a week after the collapse, vessel traffic to and from the Port of Baltimore, which employs 8,000 people, was shut down. USDOT responded immediately by releasing $60 million in emergency relief funding and coordinating with state and federal partners to mitigate supply chain impacts, manage traffic, and safely reopen the port. USDOT continues to work tirelessly to accelerate reconstruction of the bridge so that this vital economic corridor is open, operational, and safe for travelers and freight operations. (FHWA, July 2024)

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law put Americans to work improving and rebuilding our nation's infrastructure with American-made materials. As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has helped create millions of new, high-paying jobs across the country, including 1.6 million construction and manufacturing jobs, with construction employment at an all-time high.

- **Enforcing Buy America:** We proposed rules to end longstanding Buy America waivers for manufactured products in federal-aid highway projects. This policy supports the Administration's commitment to create good-paying jobs within the U.S., allowing domestic manufacturing to grow. (FHWA, March 2024)
- **Spurring Growth in Clean Energy Manufacturing:** Since 2021, companies have announced more than $270 billion in investments in American clean energy and electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing, creating new U.S. manufacturing jobs and helping communities that have been left behind make a comeback. (White House, November 2024)
- **Strengthening America's Trucking Workforce:** We announced more than $55 million in grant funding in fiscal year 2024 to expedite commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) issuances. Between 2021 and 2023, we increased the number of CDLs issued by 1,335,850. We also launched initiatives to study compensation, predatory leasing arrangements, and detention time. (FMCSA, December 2023) (FMCSA, September 2024)
- **Gaining Rail Worker Sick Leave:** Under the Biden-Harris Administration, rail labor and the rail industry have made tremendous progress expanding access to sick leave. Since the end of 2022, the number of Class I freight railroad employees who have access to paid sick days increased from 5 percent to more than 90 percent. Secretary Buttigieg has continued to push the rail industry to guarantee all workers paid sick leave and has taken actions to increase accountability and safety. (USDOT, September 2024)

- **Investing in Transit Employees:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a $5 million award to support and build the Nation's transit workforce. The Transportation Learning Center will help address the transit workforce shortage by providing resources to reskill and upskill the workforce at a time when transit agencies are adopting new technologies. (FTA, August 2021)
- **Creating American Shipyard Jobs:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) worked with the Philadelphia Shipyard to deliver five US-built ships to train the next generation of mariners. Building the vessels in the U.S. has created over 1,450 shipyard jobs during construction in Philadelphia strengthening the U.S. shipbuilding, repair and manufacturing industries. (MARAD, September 2024)
- **Creating Pathways for Careers in Transportation:** We have made $435 million in grants to support University Transportation Centers that will help the next generation of transportation professionals make our roads, bridges, rail, shipping, and airspace safer, more innovative, and more efficient. Grant awardees include a record number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), minority-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges. (USDOT, February 2023)

Source: USDOT, May 2024.

BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE CORRIDOR PROJECT

With $1.6 billion in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other state funding sources, the Brent Spence Bridge, which spans the Ohio River between Covington, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio, will soon undergo a $3.6 billion transformative repair and expansion effort. The long-awaited bridge rehabilitation of this critical corridor will improve safety, connection, and accessibility for the surrounding communities while alleviating congestion along a critical freight route. Union workers, as well as small, local, and minority-owned businesses, will play a crucial role in the construction process, in accordance with the federal requirements.

The bridge carries approximately 160,000 vehicles and $1 billion in goods every day. Originally built nearly 70 years ago in 1963, the Brent Spence Bridge has been long overdue for repair. The project, made possible by BIL funding, will upgrade the existing bridge and build a new additional bridge dedicated to interstate drivers to improve traffic along a critical freight route that runs from Canada to Florida.

STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR AIR TRAVELERS

Every day, nearly 3 million people step onto an airplane in the United States. After the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, many wondered if the airline industry would survive. Thanks to this administration's decisive action, it hasn't only survived but grown. The 10 busiest days in airport travel history have all occurred in 2024, with Sunday, December 1, setting a record with more than 3 million Americans screened by TSA at U.S. airports, the largest number to date.

The Biden-Harris Administration has taken historic action to modernize airports and expand passenger protections. Despite unprecedented levels of air travel, flight cancellation rates for the first half of 2024 were just 1.4 percent—nearly the lowest rate in over a decade. At the same time, airfares are down 6 percent over the last year and below pre-pandemic prices. Secretary Buttigieg continues to call upon airlines to improve their customer service commitments to passengers and advance policies and regulations to improve air travel for everyone. (USDOT, July 2024)

Specific actions taken by USDOT to protect air travelers include:

- **Getting Money Back in People's Pockets:** In response to a surge of consumer complaints, we investigated more than 20 airlines for extreme refund delays and confirmed they issued nearly $4 billion in required refunds, including over $600 million owed to passengers affected by the Southwest Airlines holiday meltdown in 2022. (USDOT, July 2024)
- **Creating a New Rule to Protect Consumers from Costly Surprise Airline Junk Fees:** The rule fosters a more competitive airline market by requiring airlines to disclose critical extra fees upfront – like change fees and baggage fees – to ensure consumers can better understand the true cost of their travel. The rule also bans "bait-and-switch" advertising tactics and requires airlines to clearly tell passengers upfront that a seat is included with the cost of their ticket, and they do not need to pay extra. Airlines have challenged this rule in court, and the court has put a temporary hold on implementation of the rule. The Department will continue to defend this rule and notes that nothing in the Court's decision prevents airlines from voluntarily complying with this common-sense rule. (USDOT, April 2024)

- **Making Refunds Automatic:** We created a new rule to require airlines to provide automatic cash refunds to passengers when their flight is cancelled or significantly changed, when their baggage is significantly delayed, or when extra services that they paid for are not provided. (USDOT, July 2024)
- **Launching the Airline Customer Service Dashboard:** We released a set of dashboards that provide air travelers information on airlines' commitments to families flying with young children and customers experiencing significant flight disruptions due to circumstances within the airline's control. (USDOT, May 2024)
- **Investigating Airline Rewards Programs:** We launched an inquiry into the four largest U.S. airlines' rewards programs that is aimed at protecting rewards and benefits earned by air travelers. The review will examine the fairness, transparency, predictability, and competitiveness of airlines' rewards programs. (USDOT, September 2024)
- **Protecting Critical Flight Services:** To protect the traveling public interests in the face of a proposed merger between Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, we secured binding protections to protect the value of rewards, preserve critical flight service, ensure Honolulu hub access, enhance customer benefits, and lower costs for military families. (USDOT, September 2024)
- **Protecting Travelers with Disabilities:** We published the first-ever Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights to help travelers understand what they're entitled to when they fly. We finalized a rule requiring accessible lavatories on new single-aisle aircraft and funded nearly 150 projects across the country to improve airport terminal access for people with disabilities. We also issued a final rule establishing new protections for people with disabilities in commercial air travel that will ensure that they can fly safely and with dignity. (USDOT, July 2022) (USDOT, August 2023) (USDOT, December 2024)
- **Banning Family Seating Junk Fees:** We proposed to ban family seating junk fees and guarantee that parents can sit with their children for no extra charge when they fly. Before President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg pressed airlines last year, no airline committed to guaranteeing fee-free family seating. Now, four airlines guarantee fee-free family seating, as the Department is working on its family seating junk fee ban proposal. (USDOT, August 2024)

- **Expanded Enforcement Capacity:** We launched a new partnership with a bipartisan group of state attorneys general to fast-track the review of consumer complaints, hold airlines accountable, and protect the rights of the traveling public. (USDOT, April 2024)
- **Stronger Airline Oversight:** Under Secretary Buttigieg, USDOT has issued nearly $225 million in penalties against airlines for consumer protection violations, including fines against Southwest Airlines for the 2022 meltdown and a $50 million fine against American Airlines for discrimination against passengers with disabilities. As a comparison, between 1996 and 2020, USDOT issued $70 million in penalties against airlines for consumer protection violations. (USDOT, December 2023) (USDOT, October 2024)
- **Support Our Troops Dashboard:** We created a new "Support Our Troops" dashboard to help U.S. military service members and their immediate family members more easily access travel benefits offered by the 10 largest U.S. airlines. (USDOT, May 2024)

COVID-19 RESPONSE: SAVING AMERICAN JOBS

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg speaks at a news conference in Baltimore. Source: USDOT.

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on transportation cannot be overstated: companies risked bankruptcy; industries seemed on the verge of collapse; workers lost their jobs. Through President Biden's American Rescue Plan, USDOT helped Americans stay safe while ensuring that hundreds of companies and agencies stayed solvent.

The American Rescue Plan provided over $30 billion to transit agencies, allowing them to keep tens of thousands of employees on the payroll and provide essential transportation services. It also provided $15 billion in payroll support for air carriers and more than $600 million to protect aviation manufacturing jobs. Today, after a sharp decline due to the pandemic, employment in transportation industries is greater than it was before the pandemic.

ADVANCING AMERICAN INTERESTS ABROAD

Secretary Buttigieg meets with Ukrainian President Zelensky. Source: USDOT.

USDOT is committed to improving the safety, efficiency, and resiliency of the global transportation system and supporting U.S. foreign policy initiatives by strengthening relationships with our international partners.

In 2024, USDOT concluded three new Open Skies Agreements with the Dominican Republic, Fiji, and Mozambique. These agreements establish an open and competitive environment for airlines to grow and support connectivity for the benefit of travelers, shippers, tourism, and the broader economy. (**USDOT, October 2024**)

In December 2023, USDOT participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, where the Department presented progress made toward decarbonizing transportation and engaged in multilateral initiatives to build alternative fuel corridors and advance the use of sustainable fuels in shipping and aviation. A USDOT delegation also participated in COP29 in 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. (**USDOT, December 2023**)

Strong transportation links between Mexico and the United States are essential to our economy. In June 2023, Secretary Buttigieg traveled to Mexico to meet with then Mexican President Lopez Obrador and discuss approaches to further strengthen these links and support continued integration of North American supply chains. (**USDOT, June 2023**)

Secretary Buttigieg has also led efforts to strengthen U.S. support for Ukraine. In a trip to Ukraine in November 2023, the Secretary announced the creation of a U.S.-Ukraine Infrastructure Task Force focused on Ukraine's critical wartime needs and future post-conflict infrastructure reconstruction. (**USDOT, November 2023**)

THREE YEARS OF THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

With historic funding to rebuild, repair, and replace infrastructure across the nation, the Biden-Harris Administration is reversing decades of underinvestment—all while creating good-paying jobs, growing the economy, strengthening supply chains, improving mobility, enhancing resilience, and making our transportation systems safer.

In just 3 years since its enactment, the Biden-Harris Administration has announced nearly $570 billion to states, Tribes, territories, and local governments for 66,000 projects aimed at repairing roads and bridges, modernizing transit systems and passenger rail services, upgrading freight rail assets, strengthening supply chains, improving airports and runways, (USDOT, November 2024)

- **Repairing and Improving Roads and Bridges:** Projects to repair and improve more than 196,000 miles of roads and nearly 11,400 bridges have been announced. 16,000 projects that received USDOT funding are already completed or well on their way. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Strengthening Supply Chains:** 580+ port and waterway projects have been announced by either USDOT or the Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen supply chain reliability, speed up the movement of goods, reduce the costs of everyday items, and lower carbon emissions. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Modernizing Air Travel:** 1,500+ airports are modernizing their terminals, expanding operations, or improving their runway infrastructure. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Investing in Tribal Nations:** 630+ transportation projects have been announced across more than 195 Tribal Nations. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Improving Safety:** 1,600+ communities in all 50 states have been funded to improve roadway safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Expanding Access to Transit:** Projects to build more than 4,600 buses in American factories nationwide have been announced. (USDOT, November 2024)

- **Investing in Passenger Rail:** Nearly 320 rail projects nationwide have been announced, including those that will modernize and expand America's rail networks across the country, deliver the first high-speed rail systems in our nation's history, replace aging infrastructure on America's busiest rail corridor in the Northeast, make freight rail safer, eliminate or improve 400+ highway-rail crossings in local communities, and advance new potential rail corridors in every region of the country. (USDOT, November 2024)
- **Accelerating Project Delivery:** We took steps to speed the delivery of BIL funded projects by establishing a new Project Delivery Center of Excellence, streamlining processes by simplifying and combining complementary notices of funding opportunity, implementing phased obligation agreements to allow project sponsors to receive money faster from the Department, and providing extensive technical assistance, especially for rural and Tribal communities. (USDOT, July 2024)

Strengthening Communities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Established Justice40 goals for 40 USDOT programs that will ensure that at least 40 percent of the benefits of these programs flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Announced more than $3.3 billion in discretionary grants to 132 urban, rural, and Tribal communities to repair neighborhoods and reconnect residents to jobs and opportunities through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Established the Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights and improved the accessibility of air travel and public transit for people with disabilities through groundbreaking rulemakings and investments.

PROACTIVE INTERVENTION, PLANNING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Transportation is at its best when it connects people to jobs, resources, and opportunity. Even the most transformative transportation investments will fail to meet their full potential if they do not reach the people and communities that stand to gain from them the most. USDOT is committed to helping underserved populations connect to jobs, improve access, and build

generational wealth, and to bringing resources to communities most impacted by climate change, pollution, and environmental hazards.

USDOT's work toward advancing equity include:

- **Establishing Justice40 Goals for 40 USDOT Programs:** Justice40 is an opportunity to address gaps in transportation infrastructure and public services by working toward the goal that at least 40 percent of the benefits from many of our grants, programs, and initiatives flow to disadvantaged communities. We integrated this goal into 40 USDOT funding programs totaling approximately $150 billion in contract authority. In fact, we're exceeding our goal, with 55 percent of the benefits from awards going to disadvantaged communities, particularly rural and Tribal. (USDOT, July 2024) (USDOT, November 2023)
- **Improving Community Connections:** We announced $3.3 billion in grant awards for 132 projects through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity discretionary grant programs to reconnect residents to jobs, health care, and other essentials. (USDOT, March 2024)
- **Providing Technical Assistance for Underserved and Rural Communities:** We announced $45 million through the Thriving Communities Program to help 176 under-resourced and disadvantaged communities identify, develop, and deliver transportation projects to achieve locally driven economic development, health, environment, mobility, and access goals. (USDOT, April 2024)
- **Launching the Reconnecting Communities Institute:** We provided communities with tailored assistance to plan locally led transportation improvements, apply for funding, and deliver transformational infrastructure projects. (USDOT, April 2024)
- **Establishing an Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity:** We reestablished an advisory committee on transportation equity, chaired by former USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx, to provide independent advice on civil rights and transportation equity concerns. (USDOT, October 2023)
- **Supporting Tribal Transportation Self-Governance:** The Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP) provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations with greater control, flexibility, and decision-making authority over DOT funds used to carry out tribal transportation programs in tribal communities. Since 2022, five Tribes have signed compacts to participate: Cherokee Nation, Ohkay Owingeh, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Forest County Potawatomi Community, and Gulkana Village Council. (USDOT, August 2023).

ENGAGING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Tour of York, AL, with Mayor Willie Lake, federal partners, and Thriving Communities Program Capacity Builders. Source: USDOT.

The City of York is a predominantly African American community in West Central Alabama with around 2,500 residents. York faces challenges with frequent train crossings causing significant traffic delays, creating safety issues, and delaying emergency service response times. Broad Street, which runs through the downtown, sees about 1,700 vehicles daily, including lumber, timber, and large industry trucks. This often causes damage to the street signage, lighting, and street surfaces. York has also been experiencing job loss, disinvestment, and population decline. The City's goal is to create an attractive, welcoming pedestrian environment on Broad Street. This includes new lighting and landscaping and reducing railroad crossings to improve safety for all road users.

Mayor Willie Lake said of the Thriving Communities Program, “Through this program, York will be able to create a downtown redevelopment plan focused on revitalizing the local economy and attracting businesses. Additionally, the quality of life in York has been enhanced by vibrant murals, which add cultural value, beautify the city, and foster community pride. These initiatives contribute to York’s long-term sustainability and appeal as a livable, inviting town.”

To address these issues, the community engaged a team supported by USDOT’s new Thriving Communities Program (TCP), which provides no-cost technical assistance to disadvantaged communities to help them access federal resources. TCP’s Capacity Builders are supporting local leaders to align proposed safety and mobility improvements with efforts to revitalize the struggling downtown. Through TCP technical assistance, the City of York was successful with its application for federal funding to improve railway grade crossings.

Over the next year, the TCP team will continue collaborating with the City of York to engage the community to plan for future federal grant program opportunities, develop a traffic safety plan, and support downtown revitalization strategies. (USDOT, July 2024)

WEALTH CREATION

Small and disadvantaged businesses generate hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue and support millions of jobs, but they often don't have the resources to compete for infrastructure contracts with larger, more established companies. USDOT is working to level that playing field, giving small businesses a fair chance to compete so they can secure these opportunities, build generational wealth in their communities, and help build better infrastructure across America.

USDOT's achievements to support small businesses and create wealth include:

- **Supporting Small and Disadvantaged Businesses Through Direct Contracts:** We increased the contract dollars going to small and disadvantaged businesses (SDB) by $1.7 billion in 2023, in line with the government-wide SDB goal of 21 percent of all federal contracts going to SDBs. (USDOT, September 2023)
- **Ensuring All Businesses Have a Fair Chance to Compete:** : We modernized the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program regulations to make federally-assisted FHWA, FTA, and FAA contracts (and airport concession industries) more accessible to qualifying small businesses. The overdue modernization of the rule included proactive monitoring and oversight as well as certification provisions. (USDOT, April 2024)
- **Helping Link Small Businesses to Private Capital:** We launched USDOT Connect to Capital, an online portal that serves as a database of SDBs, DBEs, and capital investors to help small businesses access private equity capital investors. (USDOT, May 2024)
- **Engaging with Community Leaders:** We led a Wealth Creation Tour, hosting a series of outreach events throughout the summer of 2024 to connect our local transportation partners with the local and small business community to discuss federal contracting opportunities made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. (USDOT, September 2024)

EXPANDING ACCESS

More than 25 percent of Americans report having a disability. Everyone ought to be able to move freely, fairly, and safely through our transportation systems. USDOT is committed to ensuring that all modes of transportation are affordable, accessible, and available to everyone who might count on them.

USDOT's achievements to expand access to transportation include:

- **Improving Air Travel Accessibility:** We finalized a rule establishing new protections to ensure that airline passengers who use wheelchairs can travel safely and with dignity. The rule sets new standards for prompt, safe, and dignified assistance; mandates enhanced training for airline employees and contractors who physically assist passengers with disabilities and handle passengers' wheelchairs; and specifies actions that airlines must take to protect passengers when a wheelchair is damaged during transport. We also finalized a rule on accessible lavatories on aircraft, requiring airlines to make lavatories on new single-aisle aircraft large enough to permit a passenger with a disability and an attendant to approach, enter, and maneuver within as necessary to use the aircraft lavatory. (USDOT, December 2024) (USDOT, August 2023)
- **Ensuring Accessible Transit:** We invested more than $1 billion through the All Stations Accessibility Program to make it easier for people with disabilities and mobility needs to access some of the nation's oldest and busiest rail transit systems through essential upgrades, such as elevators. We also proposed new rules to ensure that transit stops meet Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines. (FTA, May 2024) (FTA, August 2024)
- **Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit Stations:** We announced nearly $50 million in innovative finance grants to provide technical assistance in support of transit-oriented development and downtown redevelopment initiatives to help improve housing and transportation affordability. We also announced $28 million in grants to support equitable transit-oriented development through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development. (FTA, April 2024) (FTA, October 2024) (USDOT, September 2024)
- **Reconnecting Communities:** To help revitalize and reconnect communities cut off from opportunity by past transportation infrastructure decisions, we have provided communities with a combined $3.3 billion in funding through the newly established Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) programs. To date, 176 communities have benefited from RCP and NAE funding, supporting projects that bring people closer to jobs, schools, housing, places of worship, and one another. (USDOT, July 2024)

RECONNECTING PHILADELPHIA'S CHINATOWN

Source: City of Philadelphia.

For over a century, Philadelphia's historic Chinatown neighborhood has been an active and tight-knit community of residents, businesses, and cultural resources. The neighborhood has served as a hub for Asian American and Asian immigrant communities since the mid-1800s and is currently home to approximately 3,000 people.

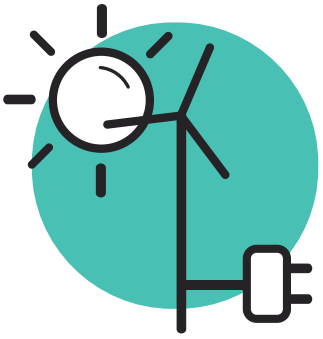
In the 1960s, the federal government used eminent domain to build the Vine Street Expressway through the heart of Chinatown, bisecting the neighborhood and displacing many residents and businesses. Cecilia Moy Yep, a longtime resident, community advocate, and former Executive Director of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC), was evicted from her home due to the Expressway development. Yet she and her family remained in their home as a form of protest even as construction activities began dismantling the structure.

Following the completion of the project in the 1990s, the community was effectively split in two. Residents had to regularly cross the Expressway to reach businesses, essential services, and schools. With more than 100,000 vehicles a day passing through the neighborhood, residents experience dangerous crossings for pedestrians and cyclists, increased local noise and air pollution, and a high number of roadway crashes.

Funded by the Reconnecting Neighborhoods and Communities (RCN) grant program, the Chinatown Stitch supports a new vision for the Chinatown neighborhood. The $159 million project aims to improve safety, connectivity, and access to green space by capping a portion of the Vine Street Expressway, creating open and green spaces and adding bike lanes. Construction is set to begin in 2028, with community input included throughout the design and development phases.

The Chinatown Stitch is one of 131 projects in 42 states supported by the RCN program, established through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The most recent round of RCN awards includes $3.3 billion in grants for projects like the Chinatown Stitch, aimed at remedying the divisions and burdens placed on communities by previous transportation infrastructure projects. (USDOT, May 2024)

Source: City of Philadelphia.



Climate and Sustainability

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Doubled the number of publicly available electric vehicle (EV) chargers nationwide. More than 200,000 charging ports are now publicly available, with the majority of federally funded chargers expected toward the later part of the decade as states select and build out the sites.
- Set vehicle fuel efficiency standards that will save drivers tens of billions of dollars at the pump and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- Announced funding to support the deployment of 3,500 low- and zero-emission American-made transit buses.
- Announced $830 million in PROTECT grants in addition to $7.3 billion in formula funding to support transportation system resilience to climate impacts, like sea level rise and extreme weather.
- Launched a one-of-kind grant program to incentivize the use of low-carbon materials in infrastructure.

More frequent and severe weather events year-round have lasting impacts on critical supply chains and Americans' ability to safely travel. Our nation's transportation sector is responsible for more carbon pollution than any other sector of the U.S. economy. Thanks to investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden-Harris Administration is working to build and expand transportation systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are resilient to the impacts of climate change, and advance climate and environmental justice priorities.

ACHIEVING NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

To meet President Biden's goal of reducing emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, USDOT is building a transportation system that mitigates carbon emissions and is resilient to the impacts of climate change. We have funded climate-smart projects across every mode of transportation, from installing EV fast-charging stations in Ohio and Hawaii, to electrifying ferry systems in Washington State, to converting the University of Maryland's entire bus fleet from diesel to EV.

USDOT's work to help achieve net-zero carbon emissions includes:

- **Raising Fuel Economy Standards:** We issued new vehicle fuel economy standards that will save Americans more than $23 billion in fuel costs while reducing pollution. By 2031, the average light-duty vehicle will get 50 miles per gallon under these new standards. (NHTSA, June 2024)
- **Building a Nationwide EV Charging Network:** We launched programs that have helped more than double the number of publicly available EV chargers nationwide to more than 200,000. (USDOT, August 2024)
- **Incentivizing the Use of Low-Carbon Materials in Construction:** We launched a first-of-its-kind program to accelerate the use of cleaner construction materials that create less carbon pollution by making $1.2 billion available in November 2024 through President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act to incentivize states to incorporate American-made low-embodied carbon materials on construction projects. (FHWA, November 2024)

- **Investing in Zero-Emission Buses:** We invested in more than 3,500 low- and zero-emission American-made transit buses and build the infrastructure that supports them. This funding supports American transit vehicle manufacturing, helps build bus facilities, and promotes workforce development. (FTA, July 2024)
- **Reducing Truck Air Pollution in Communities Near Ports:** We announced $148 million in grants to 11 states and Puerto Rico under the first round of a new $400 million program to improve air quality and reduce pollution for truck drivers, port workers, and families who live in communities surrounding ports. (USDOT, April 2024)
- **Promoting Sustainable Aviation:** We announced $291 million for a project to accelerate the production and use of sustainable aviation fuels and the development of low-emission aviation technologies that will support the U.S. aviation climate goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. (FAA, August 2024)
- **Establishing a New Climate and Transportation Research Center:** We established a Climate Change and Transportation Research Center at the University of California, Davis. The new Climate Center will advance research and technologies to support the nation's clean energy goals, accelerate decarbonization of the transportation sector, strengthen the resilience of the nation's transportation infrastructure, and address environmental inequities created by the transportation system. (USDOT, May 2024)

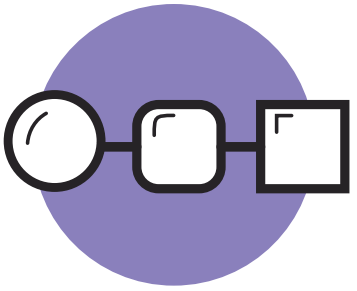
BRIGHTLINE WEST HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Source: USDOT.

USDOT is proud to support the Brightline West High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail project connecting Las Vegas, Nevada, and Southern California through $6.5 billion in federal grants and financing. The 218-mile high-speed rail line will primarily run along the I-15 median with trains capable of reaching 186 mph or more. It will cut the trip length to 2 hours—half the time it takes to travel by car. Brightline West's $12 billion high-speed rail project will be a fully electric, zero-emission system to become one of the greenest forms of transportation in the U.S. The project will bolster tourism, create jobs, ease traffic on I-15, and cut more than 400,000 tons of carbon pollution each year. The project is estimated to support 35,000 jobs, including 10,000 direct union construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs once the line is operational. (USDOT, April 2024)

Through landmark agreements with several unions, the construction, operation, and maintenance of this project will use union labor. "This project presents a tremendous opportunity for trade unions, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was a major catalyst in getting a big idea like Brightline West from the drawing board to the groundbreaking phase," said Transport Workers Union International President John Samuelsen. (TWU, April 2024)

Support for high-quality passenger rail is part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, which is delivering world-class infrastructure across the country, expanding access to economic opportunity, and creating good-paying union jobs. In total, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests $66 billion for passenger rail in the U.S.—the largest investment since the creation of Amtrak more than 50 years ago. (USDOT, January 2024)



TRANSFORMATION

TRANSFORMATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Announced more than $148 million to SMART grant projects across the country.
- Launched a $15 million Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative.
- Advanced technologies and regulations to support commercial drone operations.
- Established the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee.

DRIVING INNOVATION FOR ALL AMERICANS

Making our system safer and stronger, more resilient and sustainable, fairer and more equitable will require a renewed commitment to science, learning, and innovation. This requires transforming our infrastructure, our technology, and our approaches to solving problems.

USDOT's work to advance innovation includes:

- **Preparing for the Air Travel of the Future:** We issued a final rule to prepare the way for powered lift, the first completely new category of civil aircraft since helicopters were introduced in the 1940s. Powered-lift operations include air taxis, cargo delivery, and a variety of operations within urban and rural areas, such as air ambulances. The final rule addresses training and qualifications for pilots and instructors and operational requirements for flying these new aircraft. (FAA, October 2024)
- **Advancing Smart Community Technology Projects:** We announced more than $148 million in grant awards for 98 technology demonstration projects to improve transportation efficiency and safety in 39 states across the country through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. (USDOT, March 2024)
- **Funding Advanced Technology Deployments:** We announced more than $96.5 million in grants to 16 states for 20 projects under the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation program to fund technology-based multimodal solutions that improve the travel experience. (FHWA, October 2024)
- **Accelerating the Implementation of Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Technologies:** We released Saving Lives with Connectivity: A Plan to Accelerate Vehicle to Everything (V2X) Deployment, which will guide the implementation of vehicle-to-everything technologies across the nation. (USDOT, August 2024) In addition, we made just under $60 million in funding available through the Saving Lives with Connectivity: Accelerating V2X Deployment grant opportunity to support safe and effective interoperable vehicle-to-everything technology.opportunity to support safe and effective interoperable vehicle-to-everything technology. (FHWA, October 2023)
- **Exploring the Potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Improve Transportation Safety:** We launched a $15 million Complete Streets AI Initiative to support the responsible use of artificial intelligence to develop data and analytics capabilities that drive insights for agencies building complete streets. (USDOT, February 2024)
- **Supporting Rural Automated Vehicle Research:** We established a $25 million Rural Autonomous Vehicle research program that funds collaborative research and pilot deployment activities to support a future rural transportation system with automated vehicles that is safe, advances American competitiveness, and supports good-paying jobs. (USDOT, December 2023)

- **Researching Durable and Sustainable Pavements:** We opened a new pavement testing facility at the FHWA Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. The facility is used by pavement and highway research engineers to evaluate the durability of both new and existing pavement materials and to help develop smoother and more cost-effective highway systems. (USDOT, January 2024)
- **Launched the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee:** We established an advisory committee made up of leading transportation technology stakeholders to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary about needs, objectives, plans, and approaches for transportation innovation. (USDOT, December 2023)

LEVERAGING EDGE COMPUTING TO GATHER TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA

Installation of the MUST device along a rural road in Washington State. Source: Yakama Nation.

Since 2021, dozens of residents have been killed and hundreds of others have been seriously injured on the stretch of US-97 running through the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington state. Traffic safety is an urgent concern for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation: in Washington state, rural communities experience twice as many traffic fatalities per vehicle mile traveled as urban areas. This disparity is even higher for Native Americans in Washington, who experience nearly four times the traffic fatality rate as non-Native Americans. And amongst all Native American communities in Washington State, the Yakama Nation has the highest rates of both pedestrian and vehicle fatalities.

The infrastructural challenges in Yakama territory are many. Roads are often in need of continued maintenance, roadways frequently experience challenging weather conditions from fog to ice, and most of these rural roads lack pedestrian and bike facilities or adequate lighting. This means that pedestrians are forced to share unlit roads at night with vehicles on curvy, steep roads with narrow shoulders, creating an extremely dangerous mix for vulnerable road users and drivers alike.

With support from FHWA Small Business Innovation Research funding and a USDOT SMART grant, the Yakama Nation is deploying AI-powered edge computing technology along the US-97 corridor to collect environmental, traffic, and road condition data that is relevant in rural communities, from near-miss events to speeding to animal crossings. The technology uses sensors and machine vision to monitor traffic conditions in real time to help Yakama Nation officials make the best decisions possible to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. (USDOT, 2024)

Organizational Excellence

DELIVERING RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICES

At USDOT, we are guided by an emphasis on customer service and responsible stewardship of public resources. We seek to build a world-class organization that leads by example when it comes to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and environmental sustainability. The American people are counting on us to deliver, and we are committed to continuously improving our organization to make good on that promise.

USDOT's work to advance organizational excellence includes:

- **Improving Workplace Satisfaction:** The Department was ranked #6 in the 2023 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings. (USDOT, 2024 Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Report)
- **Hiring Employees to Implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** In the past 4 years, the Department has hired nearly 15,000 people to help implement the $1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. (USDOT, 2024 Organizational Health and Organizational Performance Report)

USDOT Volpe Center Building. Source: Dave Burk © SOM.

- **Opening a State-of-the-Art Research Center:** We opened a new LEED Platinum certified building for the USDOT Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA. This new state-of-the-art facility includes laboratories, conference space, and workspaces that are designed to foster innovation and multimodal collaboration. This new facility was developed through an innovative partnership through which USDOT reduced our footprint and returned ten acres of land to the local community for redevelopment. (**USDOT,** September 2023)
- **Meeting the Highest Standard of Financial Accountability:** We received 18 consecutive clean audit opinions, furthering our strong history of proper stewardship of public funds, as well as providing trustworthy and reliable results and reporting. These results demonstrate DOT's ongoing commitment to accurate and effective accounting and reporting of resources, which supports DOT's ability to execute its mission properly and efficiently. (USDOT Agency Financial Report FY 2024)

U.S. Department of Transportation