

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR AMERICA

USDOT Progress Report: 2021–2023



U.S. Department of Transportation

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

We are pleased to provide an update on the work of your United States Department of Transportation.

As all Americans felt, the COVID-19 pandemic created some of the most dramatic and widespread disruptions to our transportation systems in modern history. Then, even in the midst of that disruption and recovery, President Biden passed a historic package of infrastructure investments and is now leading the most rapid improvements in transportation in generations. Given the extraordinary nature and disorienting speed of these changes, we hope it will be useful for Americans to see an accounting of the progress happening in the transportation systems that all of us rely on every day.

Our first priority is safety. During the pandemic, we saw a surge in fatal traffic crashes. To address this challenge, we have redoubled our efforts to improve safety for all road users. We raised safety standards for vehicles and allocated billions of dollars of new funding to make our roadways safer.¹ Now, traffic fatalities have gone down for five straight quarters.

We aggressively moved to improve rail safety as well, refusing to accept the status quo of over 1,000 derailments per year that have plagued America for decades. We funded nearly \$18 billion in rail projects and raised safety and labor standards to protect travelers, workers, and communities.

In our skies, we reached our aggressive goals to hire and train 1,500 new air traffic controllers, and funded hundreds of millions of dollars in physical infrastructure safety improvements at airports. Airline cancellation rates are now lower than they were before the pandemic, and we've secured agreements from airlines to compensate travelers when their flight is canceled or significantly delayed.



¹ Funding amounts appearing in this report are as of November 1, 2023.

When the pandemic wreaked havoc on supply chains, this administration brought together ports, unions, and companies to address the biggest disruptions. As a result, critical supply chains are significantly more resilient and reliable than they were when President Biden took office. Our nation's ports are moving record levels of cargo, shipping costs are down, and goods are being delivered on time. Partly because of improved supply chains and the resulting lowered transportation costs, inflation has been reduced by two-thirds from last year, and American consumers and businesses are beginning to feel some relief.

We launched the first federal program to reconnect communities that were divided by past infrastructure decisions, the first federal program to protect transportation infrastructure against extreme weather from climate change, and the first national network of electric vehicle chargers that will serve drivers in every state.

Overall, since the passage of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in November 2021, we have announced more than 40,000 transportation projects nationwide and counting. We've funded repairs to 7,800 bridges and more than 135,000 miles of roads. And we're making the biggest investments to improve public transit and passenger rail in generations, serving communities of every size across the country.

Across our roads, rails, skies, and waterways, there is still a long way to go. But these last few years demonstrate swift and widespread progress—even as our work continues to accelerate.

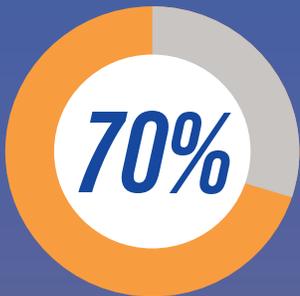
After decades of underinvestment in our transportation system, our Department has been entrusted with a major increase in resources to be used to enhance the safety and usefulness of our nation's transportation systems. I'm proud of the dedicated public servants in our Department who have worked tirelessly over the past two years to stand up new programs and policies and get funding out to communities as swiftly and efficiently as they responsibly can.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report are a result of the hard work of our world-class workforce that we are continuing to build; the work of these men and women is making a meaningful difference in the lives of Americans across the country. The public placed great trust in our Department, and we are honoring that trust by delivering improvements to transportation that get people and goods to where they need to be more safely, affordably, and sustainably.

Making Roads and Vehicles Safer for All



Published the comprehensive
NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY STRATEGY



Improved
**ROADWAY
SAFETY
PLANNING**
FOR OVER 70% OF THE
U.S. POPULATION

Funded safety
improvements

for **4,515**

INTERSECTIONS



Advanced
rules on

**AUTOMATIC
EMERGENCY
BRAKING**

in cars and trucks that
would save over

500 LIVES A YEAR

Secured commitments from over

120 PARTNERS

in the public, private, and
nonprofit sectors who
responded to our

**NRSS CALL
TO ACTION**



Improving Rail Safety



Conducted more than
**7,500 RAIL SAFETY
INSPECTIONS**
on hazardous material routes

Funded projects to
eliminate or improve



**MORE
THAN
400**
AT-GRADE
CROSSINGS

Over 87% of Class I rail
workers now have

**PAID SICK
LEAVE**



USDOT is working with
Congress to pass the

**RAILWAY
SAFETY
ACT**



Making Generational Investments to Rebuild America

Awarded over

**\$200 BILLION
TO OVER 40,000
PROJECTS**

nationwide,
supporting
tens of
thousands
of jobs



Upgrading rail service on
the Northeast Corridor,
reducing Amtrak and
commuter rail delays for over

**200 MILLION
TRIPS
ANNUALLY**



Funded repairs to

7,800 BRIDGES

and improving

135,000 MILES

OF ROADS

Strengthening Consumer Protections for Air Travelers



INVESTIGATED
more than 20
airlines for failing
to provide timely
refunds. Airlines
returned over

\$2.5 BILLION

to hundreds of thousands of
airline consumers.



Secured commitments from
major airlines guaranteeing
consumers' rights such as
**FREE REBOOKING,
HOTELS, AND
MEAL VOUCHERS**
when airlines cause a delay
or cancellation



Published the first-ever
Airline Passengers with

**DISABILITIES
BILL OF RIGHTS**

**AIRLINE
CANCELLATIONS**

down to 1.2%, the
lowest in a decade



Proposed new
rules requiring
airlines to

**DISCLOSE
HIDDEN FEES**

for extra bags, changes,
and cancellations



Advancing Equity

Funding

**\$3.3
BILLION**

to improve mobility
and access through the
**RECONNECTING
COMMUNITIES AND
NEIGHBORHOODS
PROGRAM**



Awarded
**\$686
MILLION**

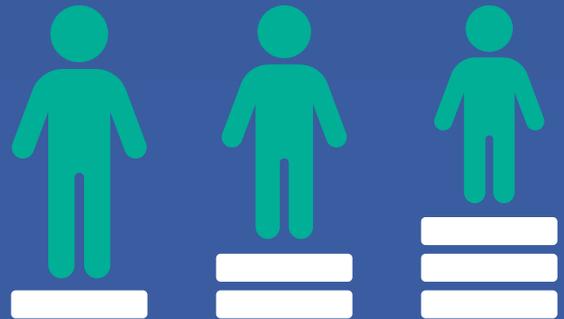
to improve
accessibility
at transit stations



In FY23, awarded over

\$2 BILLION

in direct procurement
to small, disadvantaged
businesses



Established
project labor
agreements
for 319 FHWA
projects totaling

\$9.9 BILLION,
including \$3.2 billion with
**LOCAL HIRE
PREFERENCES**



Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Emissions



Released the U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization to achieve **NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2050**

Providing nearly

\$9 BILLION

in funding for climate resilience projects to protect infrastructure from extreme weather



Funding

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

FUEL and technology to reach carbon neutral-aviation by 2050



Funded over **2,900**

ZERO-EMISSION AND LOW-EMISSION BUSES

RAISED FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS

to save consumers money at the pump and reduce carbon emissions by 2.5 billion tons



Building a Nationwide Electric Vehicle Charging Network

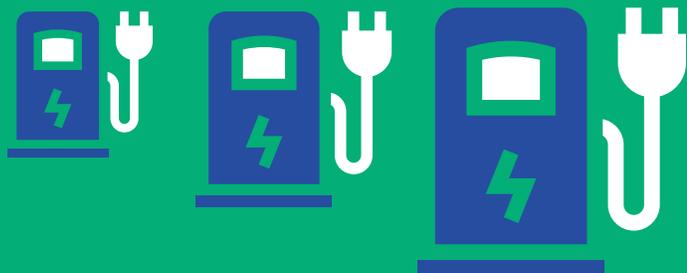


SET NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR EV CHARGING.

The new standards will ensure everyone can use the network —no matter what EV you drive or which state you charge in.

Set the nation on the path to meet President Biden's vision of

BUILDING 500,000 CHARGERS BY 2030



Expanded Alternative Fuel Corridors to



79,000 MILES of highways in all 50 States

PROVIDED MORE THAN \$2.2 BILLION

in funding to States and communities to build a nationwide EV charging network. This initial funding will electrify over

75,000 MILES OF ROADS.



Driving Innovation



Accelerated the deployment of
**UNCREWED AVIATION SYSTEMS
AND ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT**

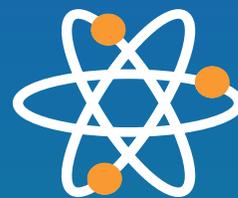
Funded
**59 SMART
COMMUNITY**



technology demonstration projects for the use of technologies such as connected and automated vehicles, advanced traffic signals, and uncrewed aircraft systems

Launched the
**ADVANCED RESEARCH
PROJECTS AGENCY-
INFRASTRUCTURE**

(ARPA-I) to spur the development of game-changing transportation technologies



 Awarded
\$450 MILLION
to 34 university consortia to develop the next generation of transportation technology and professionals

Launched the
**INTERSECTION
SAFETY CHALLENGE**



seeking ideas to transform intersection safety

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

For decades, elected leaders in Washington, D.C., promised infrastructure investments that never came. “Infrastructure Week” became a joke. But under the Biden-Harris Administration, that finally changed.



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) marks

the largest investment in transportation and infrastructure in generations. Since President Biden signed it into law, USDOT has announced more than \$200 billion for over 40,000 projects nationwide.

We have started repairing 7,800 bridges and more than 135,000 miles of roads. We have funded more than 2,900 electric buses and funded safety improvements at 4,500 intersections. We are modernizing ports and airports, expanding trains and transit, reducing delays and cutting costs, curbing carbon pollution, advancing equity, and creating a new generation of good-paying jobs.



Transportation Funding Opportunities Authorized Under BIL

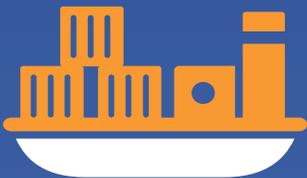


\$326 BILLION
to upgrade roads,
bridges, and tunnels

\$82 BILLION to improve
and expand public transit service



\$63 BILLION
to improve safety and
service on U.S. railroads



\$17 BILLION
to strengthen ports
and supply chains



\$25 BILLION to
modernize airports
and airfields

\$11 BILLION
for improving
safety and
saving lives



\$15 BILLION
for a nationwide network
of EV chargers and to
support the EV revolution

For more information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/>

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law>



SAFETY

SAFETY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Reduced traffic fatalities five quarters in a row after they hit an all-time high in the first quarter of 2022, with policies in place to keep reducing further.
- Advanced an automatic emergency braking (AEB) rulemaking for passenger cars and a separate AEB rulemaking for heavy trucks and buses. Combined, these two rulemakings would save more than 500 lives a year and prevent more than 42,000 injuries annually.
- Conducted more than 7,500 focused inspections on hazmat rail routes.
- Hired 1,500 air traffic controllers.
- Funded the modernization of nearly 270 miles of community gas pipelines.

MAKING ROADS AND VEHICLES SAFER FOR ALL

“We face a national crisis of fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways, and these tragedies are preventable—so as a nation, we must work urgently and collaboratively to save lives.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

At the Department of Transportation, safety is our North Star. Yet, in recent years, we have seen alarming increases in roadway deaths. After spiking during the pandemic, these numbers are starting to slowly come back down, but we must continue working to address this urgent national crisis.

In 2022, the Department released the [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) (NRSS), a comprehensive plan to save lives on America’s roadways. To that end, we have launched historic new safety programs to make it safer for people to walk and bike, and to travel by car, truck, and bus.

MAKING ROADS SAFER

USDOT's work to improve road safety includes:

- **Establishing the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program:** To date, this program has awarded \$880 million to more than 700 communities, representing over half of all Americans. ([USDOT, February 2023](#); [USDOT, October 2023](#))
- **Providing State Highway Safety Grants:** An unprecedented level of resources (\$4 billion over 5 years) was provided to state and territorial offices of highway safety to reach communities over-represented in fatal and serious-injury crashes through public engagement actions—resulting in more effective behavioral highway safety programs. ([NHTSA, September 2023](#))
- **Launching a Complete Streets Initiative:** Since the enactment of BIL, Complete Streets efforts like the Highway Safety Improvement Program have supported more than 5,300 projects, improving safety at 4,515 intersections and across 69,075 miles of roadway. ([FHWA, June 2023](#))
- **Investing in Tribal Transportation Safety:** Mindful of the reality that Native Americans are more likely to lose their lives in traffic crashes than any other population, BIL doubled funding for the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund, delivering \$21 million to 70 Tribes in 2022 alone. ([FHWA, April 2023](#))
- **Expanding Truck Parking:** When truckers cannot find safe places to park and rest, it makes all of us less safe, which is why we have awarded \$80 million to expand truck parking nationwide. ([FMCSA, September 2023](#))

MAKING STREETS SAFER



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Latanya Byrd

Our Department hosted a listening session with families of victims of road crashes. Latanya Byrd shared the heartbreaking story of how she lost her niece and her niece's three young children in a crash on Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia. That one road is responsible for almost 15 percent of crash-related fatalities in the city. In January 2023, we awarded \$78 million to rebuild Roosevelt Boulevard and make it safer.

PRIORITIZING COMPLETE STREETS

Complete Streets are streets built with every person in mind—whether they are walking, biking, or driving, old or young, or living with a disability. Today, Complete Streets is the philosophy and strategy that guides our work to plan, design, build, operate, and maintain the infrastructure of the future. To that end, we published new guidance to help states assess and address the risks to vulnerable road users, such as people who walk, bike, and use wheelchairs.

BIL provides historic resources to help state and local agencies do just that, such as redesigning University Avenue in Gainesville, Florida—a hotspot for pedestrian and bicyclist crashes. We awarded the city \$8 million to build a fully redesigned Complete Street with a protected two-way bike lane, high-visibility crossings, pedestrian islands, and raised crosswalks. ([USDOT, February 2023](#))



Photo credit: Ann McGrane/pedbikeimages.org

MAKING CARS, TRUCKS, AND BUSES SAFER

USDOT's work to improve car, truck, and bus safety includes:

- **Improving Safety Ratings for New Vehicles:** We proposed upgrades for the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP)—which gives consumers valuable information about the safety features of new cars—including adding considerations for pedestrian safety. ([NHTSA, May 2023](#))
- **Taking Action on Vehicle Safety:** NHTSA takes action for vehicle safety, making sure vehicle owners receive safe, free, and effective remedies from manufacturers according to the Safety Act and federal regulations. We processed 823 recalls in 2023 and opened 33 new investigations. ([NHTSA, as of November 8, 2023](#))
- **Proposing Advanced Crash Test Dummies:** Crash test dummies are instrumental in ensuring vehicles and vehicle equipment comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. We finalized design of an advanced crash dummy that responds more like a human occupant in a crash, enabling it to better measure occupant safety in crash tests. ([NHTSA, September 2023](#))
- **Accelerating the Deployment of New Safety Technology:** We proposed a new rule to require automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems on all new passenger cars and light trucks, which would save at least 360 lives and prevent 24,000 injuries a year. ([NHTSA, June 2023](#))
- **Updating Occupant Protection for Automated Vehicles:** We issued a first-of-its-kind final rule to ensure the safety of occupants in automated vehicles. This rule updates the occupant protection Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to account for vehicles that do not have the traditional manual controls associated with a human driver because they are equipped with automated driving systems. ([NHTSA, March 2022](#))
- **Seat Belt Reminder Systems:** We proposed a rulemaking to require automobile manufacturers to equip vehicles with seat belt use warning systems for the front passenger and rear seats to increase seat belt use, which could prevent approximately 300 non-fatal injuries and over 100 fatalities annually. ([NHTSA, August 2023](#))
- **New Safety Technology for Heavy Trucks and Buses:** We proposed a new rule to require AEB systems on all new heavy trucks and buses, which would save 155 lives and reduce approximately 8,800 non-fatal injuries per year. ([NHTSA, June 2023](#))

IMPROVING RAIL SAFETY

“Profit and expediency must never outweigh the safety of the American people. We at USDOT are doing everything in our power to improve rail safety, and we insist that the rail industry do the same—while inviting Congress to work with us to raise the bar.”

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Before the February 2023 Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, most Americans might not have known that train derailments happen on average every day. USDOT has stepped up safety inspections and training, delivered historic funding to make rail crossings safer, and pushed Congress to raise safety standards for railroads and rail workers.

USDOT’s work to improve rail safety includes:

- **Eliminating Dangerous Railroad Crossings and Improving Rail Infrastructure:** 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. And through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, we have also made passenger and freight rail safer, more efficient, and more reliable, awarding \$1.4 billion to 70 projects. ([FRA, June 2022](#); [FRA, September 2023](#))
- **Raising Rail Safety Standards:** In 2022, we proposed a new rule that would require a minimum of two train crewmembers for certain operations. Following the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, we stepped up inspections of trains carrying hazmat shipments (conducting more than 7,500 focused inspections of high-risk routes), issued new safety advisories to railroad companies about tank car covers, provided over \$25 million to train first responders and strengthen safety programs, and more. ([FRA, February 2023](#))
- **Supporting New Railway Safety Legislation:** Secretary Buttigieg called on Congress to pass the Railway Safety Act of 2023, which would phase in newer, safer tank cars, increase hazmat fees for railroads, require better detectors, expand the list of hazardous materials that qualify for strict safety precautions, and more. ([USDOT, June 2023](#))
- **Supporting Railroad Workers:** Secretary Buttigieg pushed major freight rail companies to guarantee paid sick leave for all rail workers and to participate in the Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS) program to allow workers to report close calls without fear of reprisal. More than 87 percent of unionized railroad workers at major railroads are now covered by new sick leave agreements. ([FRA, June 2023](#))

IMPROVING AVIATION SAFETY

“Aviation has to be about safety first and moving people and goods within that safety-first framework. We’re staying vigilant because we know that as long as technology and people and society continue to change—which is to say, in perpetuity—we need our safety systems and our safety culture to evolve and adapt to those changes.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

U.S. air travel is the safest mode of transportation in the world. But with aging infrastructure and an uptick in near-misses, we must act to make sure it stays that way by advancing new technologies, improving air traffic controls, and modernizing airports and airfields.

USDOT’s work to improve air travel safety includes:

- **Addressing Near Misses During Takeoff and Landing:** We awarded more than \$201 million to 82 airports across the country to reduce the risk of accidents on the runway. ([FAA, September 2023](#))
- **Hiring 1,500 Air Traffic Controllers:** After the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the training pipeline for air traffic controllers who keep our airspace safe, we recently hired 1,500 new air traffic controllers to keep Americans moving safely. ([FAA, August 2023](#))
- **Raising Aviation Safety Standards:** To protect cockpits from intrusion when the flight deck door is open, FAA issued a final rule requiring commercial aircraft to have a secondary barrier on the flight deck. FAA also issued a final rule requiring an increase from 8 to 10 consecutive hours of rest for all flight attendants after 14-hour shifts. ([FAA, June 2023](#); [FAA, October 2022](#))

IMPROVING RUNWAY SAFETY



Photo Credit: USDOT

As part of our efforts to improve runway lighting systems at 82 airports nationwide, we awarded Denver International Airport \$30 million to reconstruct a runway and add thousands of LED lights to ensure planes could take off and land safely, even on foggy or low-visibility days.

IMPROVING PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

“Modernizing our gas pipelines will help protect residents from dangerous leaks, create good-paying jobs, and reduce methane emissions in communities across the nation, particularly in rural and underserved areas.”

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

From methane leaks to cybersecurity vulnerabilities, aging pipelines threaten public health and safety in real ways. That's why USDOT has expanded oversight, improved safety, and promoted innovation when it comes to America's pipelines.

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

- **Modernizing Gas Pipelines:** In the agency's first-ever infrastructure grants to fix old, leaky gas pipes, we awarded \$196 million in funds that are projected to create hundreds of jobs, rehabilitate nearly 270 miles of pipe, save consumers money, and reduce methane emissions by approximately 212 metric tons each year. ([PHMSA, April 2023](#))
- **Support for Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Inspections and Training:** Since 2021, we awarded more than \$200 million in grants for pipeline and hazardous materials safety projects, inspections, trainings to support first responders, and research and development activities that enhanced the safety of America's energy network and hazardous materials transportation. ([PHMSA, March 2023](#))
- **Expanded Pipeline Oversight:** We advanced new rules that would reduce emissions from covered pipelines by up to 55 percent, established the first federal pipeline safety standards for 400,000 miles of previously unregulated lines, expanded pipeline safety protections in the Great Lakes and Coastal waterway areas, and strengthened safety and environmental protections for hundreds of thousands of oil, natural gas, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide pipelines. ([PHMSA, November 2021](#); [PHMSA, December 2021](#); [PHMSA, March 2022](#); [PHMSA, August 2022](#))
- **Helping Americans Safely Ship Everyday Goods:** We partnered with agencies across the federal government such as the U.S. Postal Service as well as industry trade associations through the Department's "Check the Box" campaign to help consumers, small business, and e-commerce shippers mitigate risks from undeclared hazardous materials shipments. ([USDOT, September 2023](#))



ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Reduced the backlog of container ships waiting at U.S. ports by more than 80 percent.
- Reduced supply chain pressures to pre-pandemic levels, helping reduce inflation.
- Returned the percentage of airline cancellations to pre-pandemic levels.
- Awarded more than \$200 billion to more than 40,000 construction-related projects through BIL programs.²
- Rescued nearly 31,000 American aviation manufacturing jobs threatened by the pandemic.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKERS TO STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS

"The pandemic had pushed our global supply chain to the breaking point. About 100 container ships were bearing down on the ports of L.A. and Long Beach any given day. We as a country stepped up, our administration brought together players from across the supply chains, and, together, we found ways to address many of the biggest disruptions."

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

² As of October 10, 2023.

Our supply chains have been struggling for years, but the COVID-19 pandemic was the straw that broke the camel's back.

In response, USDOT has worked to speed the movement of goods and lower the cost of goods for families. We've modernized ports and rail lines, supported careers in trucking, and more, decreasing the number of container ships idling at U.S. ports by 90 percent and spurring all-time highs in goods moving through our ports. ([BTS, September 2023](#))

USDOT's work to strengthen our supply chains includes:

- **Reducing Shipping Costs and Wait Times:** USDOT worked with ports and supply chain companies to create policies, tools, and funding opportunities that have reduced supply chain pressures to pre-pandemic levels, and the number of ships waiting at ports has gone down by more than 80 percent, contributing to the decline of overall inflation by two thirds. ([Bureau of Transportation Statistics, October 2023](#); [Council of Economic Advisors, June 2023](#))
- **Strengthening America's Trucking Workforce:** We have doubled the number of trucking apprentice programs, reduced barriers to getting a commercial driver's license (CDL), established a Women in Trucking Advisory Board, and provided more than \$44 million in grants to help states expedite the process of issuing CDLs. ([USDOT, January 2022](#); [FMCSA, September 2023](#))
- **Improving Supply Chain Data Sharing:** We partnered with more than 50 companies 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. ([BTS, May 2023](#))
- **Modernizing Ports and Marine Highways:** We invested more than \$1.6 billion through programs like the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) and the U.S. Marine Highway Program, increasing capacity, upgrading equipment, and making it easier and faster to move goods where they need to go. ([MARAD, 2023](#))
- **Investing in Tanker Security:** We have implemented the \$60 million annual Tanker Security Program to support 10 new American-flagged tanker ships in the international trading fleet, including 500 new merchant mariner jobs. These tankers serve the nation's needs for movement of refined transportation fuels and are available to support the Department of Defense's assured access to tankers for the movement of critical fuels supporting global military operations. ([MARAD, July 2023](#))
- **Streamlining Shipping and Untangling Supply Chains:** We led a global effort to streamline regulations—including those for medical supplies, batteries, and components used in manufacturing—encouraging and allowing for shippers to package goods more efficiently, saving consumers an estimated \$250 million in costs and helping improve supply chains. ([PHMSA, July 2022](#))

CREATING JOBS BY INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE



Photo credit: USDOT

Holland Ross is now working to help build the new terminal at the Pittsburgh airport (shown above), a project that President Biden funded through his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Ross has three kids, he's a 10-year Veteran of the U.S. Army, and, like so many leaving the service, he did not immediately find the camaraderie or the meaningful work that he was used to...until he joined the Pittsburgh Carpenters Union last year as a millwright. He found not just a great career, but a community that welcomed him.

STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR AIR TRAVELERS

“Whether you’re a parent expecting to sit together with your young children on a flight, a traveler with a disability navigating air travel, or a consumer traveling by air for the first time in a while, you deserve safe, accessible, affordable, and reliable airline service.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Every day, nearly 3 million people step onto an airplane in the United States. But after the COVID-19 pandemic began, many wondered if the airline industry would even survive. Thanks to this administration’s decisive action, it did. Demand for air travel rebounded faster than most thought possible, and as airlines struggled to keep pace, this Department advanced the most significant consumer protections for air travelers in generations.

Earlier this year, USDOT announced that it would propose a rule that would require airlines to cover expenses and compensate passengers for things like meals, hotels, and rebooking when airlines are responsible for stranding passengers. We persuaded all of the 10 largest airlines to guarantee meals and free rebooking, and 9 of those 10 to guarantee hotel accommodations when they cause a cancellation or delay; previously, zero airlines made such promises. And we published the first-ever [Bill of Rights for airline passengers with disabilities](#).

USDOT’s work to protect air travelers includes:

- **Improved Reliability:** USDOT stepped up oversight of airlines, pressing them to improve their scheduling and performance. After spiking during the pandemic, cancellations are down to 1.2 percent this year, the lowest in a decade. ([USDOT, January 2024](#))
- **Improved Handling of Consumer Complaints Against Airlines:** In response to a surge of consumer complaints, we have investigated more than 20 airlines and gotten them to issue over \$2.5 billion in refunds. ([Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, July 2022](#))
- **Enforced Consumer Protections:** Secretary Buttigieg announced a \$140 million penalty against Southwest Airlines for failing passengers during the 2022 holiday meltdown. The penalty – 30 times larger than any previous penalty against an airline for consumer protection violations – sent a signal to airlines to step up for their passengers ahead of one of the busiest holiday travel periods on record. ([USDOT, January 2024](#))

- **Fighting Junk Fees:** We advanced rules that would protect consumers when an airline cancels their flight and would require them to disclose hidden fees for extra bags or flights changes and cancellations. ([Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, March 2023](#))

MAKING GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS TO REBUILD AMERICA

“Bridges aren’t just concrete, asphalt, and steel; they are engines of economic growth, and they are vital connections for communities. That is why the Biden-Harris administration is working to deliver the largest investment in America’s bridges since President Eisenhower created the interstate highway system.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

After decades of disinvestment, U.S. infrastructure ranked just 13th in the world. We’re acting to change that, with historic funding to rebuild, repair, and replace infrastructure across the nation—all while creating good-paying jobs, growing the economy, strengthening supply chains, improving mobility, enhancing resilience, and making our transportation systems safer.

USDOT’s work to rebuild American infrastructure includes:

- **Funding Transformative Infrastructure Investments:** We have awarded billions of dollars through our discretionary grant programs—much of which has gone to rural areas, Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and Areas of Persistent Poverty. ([USDOT, September 2022](#))
- **Advancing Transit Construction Projects Nationwide:** We have recommended \$4.4 billion in transit projects nationwide to receive funding under the Capital Investment Grant Program to help reduce emissions, replace aging railcars, create good-paying construction jobs, and improve transit access to the millions of Americans who depend on it every day. ([FTA, March 2023](#))
- **Modernizing America’s Busiest Rail Corridor:** We have provided nearly \$9 billion to expand service and reduce delays on the Northeast Corridor, which supports 200 million trips each year and serves as the transportation backbone of the region. ([FRA, December 2022](#))
- **Repairing and Rebuilding Bridges:** Our infrastructure package authorizes \$40 billion over 5 years to rebuild, repair and replace bridges—from national landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge, to off-system bridges that serve as the only way for a rural community to access jobs, education, health care, and medical care or get goods from farms and factories to market. ([FHWA, January 2023](#))

- **Making Unprecedented Investments in Tribal Infrastructure:** Our infrastructure package dramatically increases funding for key Tribal transportation efforts, including the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), the Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program, the Tribal Transit Program, and the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Program, and ensures Tribes are eligible to compete for our most significant discretionary programs. Since the passage of BIL, the Department has funded more than \$1 billion in projects to improve transportation on Tribal lands. BIL also created an Office of Tribal Government Affairs with a new Assistant Secretary, giving Tribes a direct line into the Office of the Secretary. ([FHWA, May 2022](#); [FTA, September 2023](#))
- **Modernizing Airports:** We have awarded nearly \$6 billion in grants to help airports modernize terminals, upgrade control towers, improve runways, and more, allowing them to meet growing demand, improve the passenger experience, and ensure the continued safety of air travel. ([FAA, May 2023](#))
- **Making Unprecedented Investments in Merchant Mariner Training by Replacing 50-Year-Old Ships:** MARAD delivered the first of five new, state-of-the-art training ships to the State Maritime Academies. The National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMV) will better equip the U.S. to increase our ranks of a well-trained, highly efficient maritime workforce. The NSMV creates and supports good-paying American jobs, with over 1,450 shipyard jobs during construction and additional jobs at sea and ashore once completed, while strengthening the U.S. shipbuilding, repair, and manufacturing industries. ([MARAD, October 2023](#))

COVID-19 RESPONSE: RESCUING THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY AND SAVING AMERICAN JOBS

“The aviation industry was hit hard by the pandemic, and we have taken action to support and protect the jobs of aviation manufacturing workers. The critical American Rescue Plan funding announced today is protecting tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs, supporting hundreds of small businesses, and helping keep America’s aviation industry strong as it continues its robust recovery.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

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 and, sometimes, their lives. USDOT supported the Biden administration's efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure continuation of critical infrastructure support and relief for the American people. 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 helped the transportation industry and the entire U.S. economy recover quickly. And today, after sharply declining at the beginning of the pandemic, employment in transportation industries has grown by over 20 percent since May 2020. ([BTS, September 2023](#))

USDOT's work to help transportation recover from the pandemic includes:

- **Rescued America's Public Transit Systems:** USDOT provided transit agencies with \$30.5 billion through President Biden's American Rescue Plan, allowing them to keep tens of thousands of employees on the payroll and help get essential workers where they were needed. Nearly 80 percent of public transit agencies reported that COVID-19 funding helped them avoid layoffs. ([APTA, July 2021](#); [FTA, March 2023](#))
- **Protected Aviation Jobs:** After the pandemic decimated demand for air travel, the Department of Treasury provided \$15 billion in payroll support for air carriers, and DOT provided \$8 billion to U.S. airports and approximately \$673 million to protect nearly 31,000 aviation manufacturing jobs. ([FAA, November 2021](#); [FAA, February 2022](#))
- **Supported Amtrak's Return to Service:** USDOT relief ensured Amtrak could return quickly to service, allowing them to recall furloughed employees, restore daily long-distance service, and help states cover lost revenue. ([FRA, April 2021](#))
- **Helped Americans Get Vaccinated:** With funding from the American Rescue Plan, FTA helped more than 350 transit systems provide free transportation to vaccination sites or use their transit stations and facilities as vaccination sites—some even converted buses and other transit vehicles into mobile clinics. ([FTA, June 2021](#))
- **Assisted Transportation Service Providers:** Through the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) program, the Department of Treasury provided nearly \$2 billion in grant assistance to support payroll and other operational expenses to motorcoach, school bus, passenger vessel, and pilotage companies. Over 90 percent of grants were awarded to small businesses, nearly a quarter of the grantees were women-owned businesses, one-third were minority-owned businesses, and 7 percent were veteran-owned businesses. ([U.S. Department of Treasury, October 2021](#))



EQUITY

EQUITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Launched the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program and made available \$3.1 billion to 45 communities to mitigate physical barriers to mobility and access.
- Awarded over \$2 billion in direct procurement to small, disadvantaged businesses in FY23.
- Set goals to ensure that at least 40 percent of the benefits of 39 different USDOT programs flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Awarded nearly \$700 million to retrofit rail and subway stations to be accessible to people with disabilities, adding elevators, ramps, and other improvements through the first-ever All Stations Accessibility Program.
- Published the first-ever Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights and made air travel more equitable by publishing a final rule to require new single-aisle planes to have accessible bathrooms.

PROACTIVE INTERVENTION, PLANNING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

“From the construction of the transcontinental railroad to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, transportation has always been inseparable from America’s struggle for racial and economic justice. At its best, transportation can be a powerful engine of opportunity, connecting people to jobs, education, and resources—whether they live in a big city, a rural community, or anywhere in between. Ensuring equity and accessibility for every member of the traveling public is one of the Department of Transportation’s highest priorities.”

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Transportation is at its best when it connects people to jobs, resources, and opportunity—and 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—including communities of color, rural areas, and areas of persistent poverty—connect to jobs and resources and build generational wealth.

USDOT’s achievements toward advancing equity include:

- **Launched the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program:** In its first year, this first-of-its-kind program awarded \$185 million to 45 communities to reconnect communities that had been divided by transportation mistakes in the past, funding transformative, community-led solutions like capping interstates with parks, filling in sunken highways to reclaim land for housing, converting inhospitable facilities to tree-lined streets, and more, so residents can access jobs and opportunities. ([USDOT, July 2023](#))
- **Provided Technical Assistance for Underserved and Rural Communities:** We awarded \$21 million to support underserved communities with technical assistance through our Thriving Communities program and published a toolkit to provide technical assistance to rural communities and Tribal Nations on e-mobility infrastructure. ([USDOT, April 2023](#))
- **Setting Justice40 Goals for DOT Funding Programs:** Under the Biden-Harris administration Justice40 Initiative, USDOT is committed to delivering at least 40 percent of the benefits from key investments to disadvantaged communities—representing more than \$200 billion in appropriations. ([USDOT, August 2022](#))

RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Photo credit: USDOT

In Buffalo, New York, community leaders shared moving stories of how Hamlin Park prospered before it was divided by the Kensington Expressway, and how people and local businesses struggled after that road came through. The community in Buffalo worked for decades on the vision to fix it but thought that no one in the federal government would ever care enough to help. They were overjoyed when they learned that the Biden administration was awarding \$55 million to help build their vision: to cap the expressway, which will effectively move it underground, and build new crossings and park space on top of it.

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

“In order to make the most of our historic infrastructure investments, we must ensure they reach every community, including the rural and Tribal communities that are too often left behind by federal investments.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

No one knows what a community needs better than the people who actually live there. But underserved communities—from neighborhoods of color to rural and Tribal communities—often don’t have the technical expertise they need to navigate the red tape and bureaucracy that come with applying for federal funds. That’s why USDOT has launched a number of programs to equip communities with the tools they need to access federal funding for transformative infrastructure projects. ([USDOT, June 2023](#))

The Thriving Communities Program provides that support to communities like Bois Forte, Minnesota, where the Chippewa Tribal Government has identified promising opportunities to improve safety along its roads and walking paths but doesn’t have an engineer or the capacity to apply to funding. Thanks to the planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support we provided through the Thriving Communities program, the Band is finally able to advance these projects.



Photo Credit: Chippewa Cree Tribe

WEALTH CREATION

“Through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are making historic investments in our transportation infrastructure—and that represents major opportunity for historically excluded Americans and our nation’s small businesses.”
- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Small and minority-owned businesses generate hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue and support millions of jobs, but they often don't have the resources to compete with larger, more established companies for infrastructure contracts. 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:

- **Supported Small and Disadvantaged Businesses Through Direct Contracts:** Under President Biden, USDOT set an ambitious goal: for 21 percent of our federal contracts to go to small and disadvantaged businesses. We not only met, but exceeded that goal in FYs 2022 and 2023, and we are setting our sights even higher in the years ahead. ([USDOT, September 2022](#); [USDOT, June 2023](#))
- **Leveling the Playing Field for Small Businesses to Compete for Federal Contracts:** USDOT proposed a new rule to modernize the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession DBE (ACDBE) programs to make it easier for small, disadvantaged businesses to compete for aviation, highway, and transit contracts, as well as airport concession opportunities. ([USDOT, July 2022](#))
- **Improving Small Businesses' Access to Capital:** In coordination with the Small Business Administration, USDOT created Connections Marketplace, which provides a platform for registered small businesses and private investors to interact through a variety of virtual offerings. ([USDOT, August 2023](#))
- **Funded Workforce Development Initiatives:** FHWA released new guidance to support state investments in workforce development, training, and education. The agency also awarded \$10 million to support small businesses owned by minorities, women, and other socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. ([FHWA, June 2023](#); [FHWA, January 2023](#))

EXPANDING ACCESS

“For the great number of different Americans experiencing disabilities, if we fail to provide the right kind of transportation connectivity, that means not only that they miss out on opportunity, but that our country and our communities miss out on what they have to contribute.”

– U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Everyone ought to be able to move freely, fairly, and safely through our transportation systems, and USDOT is committed to ensuring 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:

- **Funded Accessibility Improvements in Transit Stations:** Even three decades after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, many transit stations are still inaccessible to people with disabilities, which is why we awarded nearly \$700 million to retrofit rail and subway stations, adding elevators, ramps, and other improvements through the All Stations Accessibility Program. ([FTA, December 2022](#))
- **Published Commercial Air Travel Accessibility Guidelines:** USDOT published the first-ever [Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights](#) so people with disabilities know their rights when they fly, and so we can help ensure that airlines uphold those rights. We also announced a new rule requiring airlines to make lavatories on new aircraft large enough for passengers with wheelchairs so people with disabilities can travel safely and with dignity. ([USDOT, July 2022](#))
- **Funded Transit for Improved Access to Health Care:** Many Americans rely on public transit to access vital medical care, which is why we awarded \$8.4 million to improve public transportation and access to healthcare for underserved communities. ([FTA, June 2022](#))
- **Funded Transit Improvements in Disadvantaged Communities:** Because people in low-income communities are more likely to rely on public transit to get around, we awarded approximately \$20 million to 47 projects in 32 states through the Areas of Persistent Poverty program, to expand affordable, accessible public transit to the very communities that need it the most. ([FTA, July 2023](#))



CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Raised fuel economy standards for new vehicles to save consumers money at the pump and reduce carbon emissions by 2.5 billion tons.
- Funded more than 2,900 zero-emission and low-emission buses, more than doubling the number on America's roadways.
- Funded the development of new aviation technologies that will reduce aviation industry fuel use by 36 billion gallons of fuel.
- Provided more than \$8 billion in funding for climate resilience projects to protect our roads, bridges, and highways from extreme weather.
- Set the nation on a path to deliver 500,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2030.

ACHIEVING NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

"Transportation policy is inseparable from housing and energy policy, and transportation accounts for a major share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, so we must work together in an integrated way to confront the climate crisis."

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Transportation is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector of our economy, which means that transportation should also be the largest part of the solution to the climate crisis. 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 greenhouse gas 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 Puget Sound, to converting the University of Maryland's entire bus fleet from diesel to electric vehicles.

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

- **Increasing Fuel Economy Standards for Cars and Light Trucks:** For the first time in years, we raised Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to require an average of 49 miles per gallon by 2026, which will reduce fuel use by more than 200 billion gallons and carbon emissions by 2.5 billion metric tons through 2050, while saving American families thousands of dollars at the pump. ([NHTSA, April 2022](#))
- **Launching DOT's Buy Clean Initiative:** USDOT created the first-ever department-wide policy to lower carbon emissions of the materials in our infrastructure projects across America, prioritizing American-made low-carbon construction materials. ([USDOT, September 2022](#))
- **Establishing the Carbon Reduction Program:** This BIL program will provide \$6.4 billion in formula funding to states and local governments to develop and implement carbon-reduction strategies and has already funded projects ranging from bus rapid transit corridors to walking and biking paths. ([FHWA, April 2022](#))
- **Expanding Financing for Transit and Transit-Oriented Development Projects:** Secretary Buttigieg approved changes to the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program to allow the program to finance up to 49 percent of eligible project costs for transit and transit-oriented projects. ([USDOT, October 2022](#))
- **Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit Stations:** USDOT announced the availability of approximately \$13.4 million in competitive grant funds for projects that link public transportation, land use, and housing to create communities that are walkable and connected to transit. ([USDOT, August 2023](#))
- **Establishing a National Framework for Tracking Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** USDOT established a new greenhouse gas performance management measure to the existing FHWA national performance measures while creating a flexible system under which state DOTs and MPOs will set their own targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from roadway travel. ([FHWA, November 2023](#))
- **Restored Scientific Integrity:** To advance climate change science and ensure scientific integrity US DOT reestablished Climate Change Center and restored public access to climate-related reports, program information, and other scientific and technical information. ([USDOT, April 2021](#))

LEADING THE CHARGE TO ELECTRIFY THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

USDOT's work to electrify the transportation system includes:

- **Building a Nationwide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network:** To lay the groundwork for a national network of 500,000 EV chargers, we have approved plans from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. In the first 2 years of funding from this program, we estimate we will be able to electrify over 75,000 miles of the national highway system. ([FHWA, 2023](#); [USDOT, September 2022](#))
- **Reducing Emissions from Trucks at Ports:** When trucks spend hours idling at ports, it costs truck drivers time and money and releases pollution that impacts the surrounding neighborhoods. That's why USDOT launched a \$400 million program to help ports reduce congestion and emissions. ([FHWA, April 2023](#))
- **Doubling the Number of Zero-Emission Transit Buses on America's Roadways:** We helped fund more than 2,900 zero-emission and low-emission buses, more than doubling the number of those buses on America's roadways, while creating good-paying American jobs in manufacturing and maintenance. ([FTA, June 2023](#); FTA staff analysis, November 2023)

CREATING A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE WHO WANTS CAN RIDE AND DRIVE ELECTRIC



Photo credit: USDOT

Together with the Department of Energy, USDOT launched the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, which is helping deliver \$5 billion over 5 years to help states deploy charging stations. Ohio and New York recently opened the first charging stations funded through the NEVI Program. Additional stations are already under construction in Maine, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. To date, a total of twenty-eight states have issued solicitations, and more than a dozen of these states have awarded contracts or have agreements in place.

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES IN AVIATION

USDOT's work to reduce greenhouse gases in aviation includes:

- **Launched the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Grand Challenge and Airport Grand Challenge:** We laid out strategies to make sustainable aviation fuels cheaper, better, and more ubiquitous with the goal of meeting 100 percent of aviation fuel demand by 2050. We also challenged airports to commit to net-zero targets by 2050 and have provided funding opportunities to help them do so ([FAA, September 2022](#))
- **Supported Sustainable Aviation Technologies:** To reduce fuel use, emissions, and noise, we awarded over \$100 million to companies to develop technologies like enhanced jet engine combustion systems, advanced aircraft wings, and alternative jet fuels, which are estimated to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by an amount equivalent to taking 3 million cars off the road by 2050, all while saving the aviation industry 36 billion gallons of fuel. In 2023, we announced nearly [\\$300 million in funding for projects](#) using Fueling Aviation's Sustainable Transition (FAST) technology (FAST-Tech) funds to accelerate aviation technology projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve aircraft fuel efficiency, and increase the usage of sustainable aviation fuel. ([FAA, September 2021](#); [FAA, September 2023](#))
- **Developing New Ways to Reduce Aviation Fuel Use:** We implemented new descent procedures that will save an estimated 2 million gallons of fuel and 40 million pounds of emissions annually, and developed software to decrease idle time for aircrafts, which will reduce fuel use by 7 million gallons and eliminate 75,000 tons of CO₂ emissions each year. ([FAA, January 2022](#); [FAA, September 2021](#))

MAKING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE MORE RESILIENT

"In every part of the country, climate change is impacting roads, bridges, and rail lines that Americans rely on—endangering homes, lives, and livelihoods in the process. Using funds from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're launching this unprecedented effort to help communities protect their transportation infrastructure from extreme weather and improve routes that first responders and firefighters need during disasters."

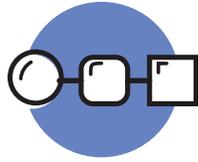
- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Across the country, Americans are seeing the consequences of climate change with our own eyes. Rising temperatures, fires, droughts, flooding, storms, mudslides, and other severe weather are costing American lives and livelihoods and devastating our nation's transportation infrastructure. To that end, USDOT has provided funding, tools, and other resources to help communities plan and build resilient transportation systems.

We are investing in projects like Atlantic Avenue in Atlantic City, New Jersey, which serves as a critical evacuation route for local residents but is vulnerable to flooding during storm surges. USDOT is funding work to elevate the roadway and upgrade drainage systems to improve flood resilience and reliability.

USDOT's work to make infrastructure more resilient includes:

- **Launched Program to Invest in Transportation System Resilience:** Our Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program invests in projects to make the country's surface transportation system more resilient to the worsening impacts of climate change—while also saving communities money they would have to spend to rebuild damaged infrastructure—with \$7.3 billion in formula funding and \$1.4 billion in discretionary grant funding over 5 years (FY22–FY26). ([FHWA, July 2022](#); [FHWA, April 2023](#))
- **Supported Emergency Relief Efforts and Helping Communities Recover from Disasters:** It is impossible for any community to respond to or recover from a disaster without having working transportation networks so that first responders can reach emergency sites and workers can eventually return to their jobs. In 2023, we provided \$750 million in FHWA Emergency Relief Program funding to 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and FTA provided \$102.3 million in funding to 17 transit agencies, cities, and planning councils to help them repair equipment and facilities damaged during floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. ([FTA, July 2023](#); [FHWA, May 2023](#))



TRANSFORMATION

TRANSFORMATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Launched the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Infrastructure (ARPA-I).
- Awarded 59 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant projects across the country.
- Launched the Intersection Safety Challenge.
- Invested more than \$435 million to support University Transportation Centers train the next generation of transportation professionals.

DRIVING INNOVATION FOR ALL AMERICANS

"We are entering a transformative era in transportation. Driven by American ingenuity, advances in transportation technology from electric and automated vehicles to drones and commercial space travel are creating new possibilities for how people and goods move."

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

From the invention of the automobile to the advent of the jet age, America has led the world when it comes to transportation innovation for a century. With each breakthrough, we gain new tools to make it faster, easier, and safer to move people and goods where they need to be. At USDOT, we believe in funding, supporting, and steering innovation toward the public good by ushering in new technologies that will create good-paying jobs and make our transportation safer, cleaner, and more accessible.

USDOT's work to advance innovation includes:

- **Launching the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Infrastructure (ARPA-I):** This agency, modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, the R&D agency that helped invent the internet and GPS) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), will fund high-risk, high-reward next-generation transportation technologies that will maintain America's position as a global leader in innovation. ([USDOT, June 2023](#))
- **Advanced Smart Community Technology Projects:** USDOT funded purpose-driven innovation with \$94 million through the SMART Program to support projects with the potential to radically improve efficiency and safety. ([USDOT, March 2023](#))
- **Launched the Intersection Safety Challenge:** We invited America's research and technology leaders to find creative solutions to improving intersection safety, including using machine vision, sensor fusion, and real-time decision-making to identify and mitigate dangerous conditions on the road. ([USDOT, April 2023](#))
- **Supported Universities That Train the Next Generation of Transportation Professionals:** USDOT invested \$435 million in grant awards through our University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program. UTCs conduct cutting-edge research and development across the transportation field and train the next generation of transportation professionals. ([USDOT, February 2023](#))
- **Established a \$250 Million Open Research Initiative:** The Open Research Initiative will, subject to Congressional appropriation, address unmet USDOT research needs by funding unsolicited research proposals that yield disruptive technologies with high-impact potential. ([USDOT, January 2023](#))
- **Advanced Automation Technologies in Transit:** FTA announced \$11.6 million to six projects to research automation technologies to improve safety and efficiency in bus service and yard operations. ([FTA, June 2023](#))
- **Establishing NHTSA's Office of Automation:** We established a new office to consolidate and focus NHTSA's expertise and resources to enhance the collaboration, effectiveness, and efficiency of the agency's regulatory work related to automated technologies and vehicles. ([NHTSA, 2023](#))
- **Funded Technology Solutions:** We provided more than \$52 million in grants for technology-based solutions, such as real-time traffic information and advanced signal timing systems, through the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program. ([FHWA, May 2023](#))
- **Supported the Responsible Use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems:** We finalized rules to support the safe integration of uncrewed aircraft systems into the airspace of the United States. These rules allow for the remote identification of drones and allow operators of small drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions. ([FAA, April 2021](#))



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

- Ranked in the Top 10 of large agencies in the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government.
- Increased recruitment at 15 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- Added 388 zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) to our fleet.
- Lowered the greenhouse gas footprint of our facilities and operations by 3 percent.

DELIVERING RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICES

“Only if our government truly represents the people of this country and encourages the capabilities of its employees can we meet the promises of our nation.”

- U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

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:

- **Making USDOT a Model Employer:** USDOT was once again ranked in the Top 10 of large agencies in the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings. It has been ranked in the top 10 for the last 11 consecutive years. ([Partnership for Public Service, 2022](#))
- **Building a Workforce That Represents All Americans:** As we have grown our workforce to support the implementation of BIL, we have increased outreach to 15 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and targeted career fairs seeking to recruit women in engineering and IT occupations. (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (OST-M), November 2023)
- **Greening the USDOT Fleet:** We have added 388 zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) to our fleet since 2021. Our Department was ranked 1st out of 68 agencies for ZEV acquisition by the General Services Administration (GSA) in FY22. (OST-M, November 2023)
- **Improving the Sustainability of USDOT Facilities and Operations:** We have lowered the greenhouse gas footprint of our facilities and operations by 3 percent since 2021 and reduced the waste generated from our buildings. In 2022, 52 percent of USDOT facility waste was diverted from landfills. (OST-M, November 2023)
- **Ensuring Payment Accuracy:** To advance responsible and transparent stewardship of public resources at both the federal and grant recipient levels, the Department established a performance goal to achieve an annual payment accuracy rate of 99 percent. For FY 2023, we exceeded our goal, reporting a payment accuracy rate of 99.3 percent. ([USDOT, August 2023](#))
- **Improving Departmental Cybersecurity:** The Chief Information Officer (CIO) has made cybersecurity and the remediation of vulnerabilities a USDOT top priority for information technology. The Department has maintained its 99 percent achievement in network access multi-factor authentication (MFA), achieving 69 percent compliance for systems—up from 13 percent in FY 2022. In addition, the Department has maintained its 99.9 percent achievement in Endpoint, Detection, and Response (EDR) deployment across its enterprise and has successfully integrated its Continuous Diagnostic Mitigation (CDM) analytics and automation system with the Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS CISA). This integration has significantly reinforced DOT's ability to detect, protect against, respond to, and mitigate persistent cyber threats. ([Performance.gov](#))
- **Readying Departmental Networks for the Future:** USDOT has made progress on the transition to mandatory Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), establishing a test lab to facilitate validation of hardware and software configurations, and deploying services to translate between IPv4 and IPv6 when needed. DOT's core networks have been validated, and the current focus is on internal services such as email and authentication and early testing of mission and business applications. ([NIST](#))

- **Guiding IT Investment Priorities:** The USDOT CIO performed reviews on 100 percent of the \$3,668 million portion of the IT portfolio subject to USDOT CIO oversight through its internal Information Technology Deep Dive reviews. These reviews supported improvement in agency category management goals, especially through the use of enterprise mandatory use and best-in-class procurement vehicles, improved program management, and reduction of IT risks. (GSA)
- **Readying for Artificial Intelligence:** USDOT developed its first-ever policy on artificial intelligence for use in support of the agency's mission and has registered 20 use cases in its use case inventory, with more use cases being evaluated. ([USDOT, June 2023](#))



U.S. Department of Transportation