

**TESTIMONY**  
**THE HONORABLE PETER BUTTIGIEG**  
**SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON**  
**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED**  
**AGENCIES**  
**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
**April 28, 2022**

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Collins, and members of the Subcommittee: thank you for the opportunity to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget request for the Department of Transportation.

I first want to thank the Members on both sides of the aisle who delivered the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the FY 2022 Omnibus.

Because of these historic investments, the Department is now in a much stronger position to help build the transportation future the American people need and deserve... one that is safer, more efficient, and more affordable for everyone, from families transporting kids to businesses moving goods.

And we have acted urgently—and responsibly—to do just that. Let me give just two examples.

We recently saw the dramatic collapse of a bridge in Pittsburgh, where if it weren't for the divine grace of a snow day, there could have been school buses driving over that 8-story high bridge when it fell. In December, we allocated the largest Federal Highway funding to states in decades, \$52.5 billion, to improve roads and bridges.

Another urgent priority for us is addressing the supply chain disruptions and accompanying inflation caused by the pandemic, while acting to ensure our supply chains are resilient into the future. The steps we are taking include efforts to support truck drivers, supplement inland ports, and modernize our port infrastructure – all to help move record volumes of goods more quickly and stem the rising costs of shipping. And it's paying off. A few weeks ago in Tell City, Indiana, I saw how our federal port investments will help increase

shipments of pig iron through a small port, supporting and securing jobs for over a thousand people at a foundry a few miles away. Examples like that exist across the country.

In Fiscal Year 2023, we are now poised to build on this progress with a President's budget for the Department of Transportation that totals \$142 billion, including \$36.8 billion in advance appropriations provided by BIL in that year.

Let me give you a few highlights:

Safety remains our top priority, and the budget includes funding to help address the crisis of deaths on America's roadways, as outlined in our National Roadway Safety Strategy. That includes \$3 billion for the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

With \$4 billion for RAISE and the new Mega program, we will support transportation projects that transform communities so that their residents no longer need to rely on bridge, tunnel, and port infrastructure that hasn't seen major updates in decades or even a century.

With \$23.6 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, we will further enhance aviation safety, combat the effects of aviation on the climate, and improve our nation's infrastructure.

With \$4.45 billion in Capital Investment Grants, we will advance 15 major transit projects that shorten commutes, increase access to jobs, and reduce congestion on the road for millions of Americans.

We will invest \$17.9 billion to reverse decades of underinvestment in intercity passenger rail and make fast, reliable train service available to more people.

We will provide \$1 billion to build out a nationwide network of electric vehicle chargers, so that Americans in every part of the country have access to the lower monthly costs of electric vehicles. We will also establish our ambitious new fuel efficiency standards, which are projected to save the typical household hundreds of dollars in gas costs and prevent 2.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide from reaching our atmosphere.

And to ensure good transportation is available on every block of our cities and every mile of our rural counties, we will dedicate \$111 million to significantly enhance the capacity of disadvantaged communities to access and execute the Department's financial assistance programs, and \$350 million through a new grant program for rural communities.

That's just a sample of the improvements the American people will experience when they drive, fly, ride – and shop, as enhancing our transportation systems directly helps lower the transportation costs of goods and services.

At the Department we understand that the tremendous opportunity we've been given to help modernize our country's infrastructure comes with a profound responsibility to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and wisely--and to make resources more accessible to state and local governments so they can build good projects.

This type of infrastructure transformation only happens at most once every generation, and it only happens if we work together. So I want to again thank you for showing that democracies can deliver for the people they represent--and for ensuring that the United States remains the global economic leader.

I look forward to taking your questions.