

\$25M for MATA, funding for North Watkins awarded by U.S. Transportation Department



Katherine Burgess

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The Biden-Harris administration has awarded \$38 million to two infrastructure projects in Memphis, the majority of which will go to the Memphis Area Transit Authority's Crosstown Corridor Safety and Multi-Modal Enhancement Program.

That MATA program will receive \$25 million to fund complete streets improvements and bus rapid transit service along a 26-mile corridor.

Improvements include sidewalks, enhanced bus stations, intersection improvements and signalization, traffic signal prioritization and Americans with Disabilities Act enhancements, according to a news release sent by U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen.

"This investment will lead to a bright future for Memphis drivers and transit riders," Cohen said in a statement. "I'm also proud that this funding was made possible by the massive investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which I supported."

The other \$13.2 million will go to design and reconstruct the 1960s-era bridge over the Wolf River, including upgrading it to seismic standards, and about 3.3 miles of streets improvements on North Watkins Street from Delano Avenue to North Parkway, including a bicycle lane, sidewalk improvements and more.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg said in a news release Wednesday that the funds will help communities "realize their visions for new infrastructure projects."

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“This round of RAISE grants is helping create a new generation of good-paying jobs in rural and urban communities alike, with projects whose benefits will include improving safety, fighting climate change, advancing equity, strengthening our supply chain, and more,” Buttigieg said.

This year, the Department of Transportation received \$15 billion in requests for the \$2.26 billion available in the RAISE discretionary grant program, according to the release.

Katherine Burgess covers government and religion. She can be reached at katherine.burgess@commercialappeal.com or followed on Twitter @kathsburgess.