

Local Infrastructure Hub

Winning Project:

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program was created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to equitably improve roadway safety and sustainability.

The first round of RAISE grants awarded more than \$2.2 billion to 166 projects in urban and rural communities across the country to improve the safety and sustainability of transportation infrastructure in communities across the country. The \$2.2 billion RAISE 2023 awards fund 162 projects across 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Cities can use the case study below to submit a competitive application for the forthcoming funding opportunity. View more 2023 RAISE winning applications [here](#).

Albuquerque, New Mexico: Advancing Transportation Connectivity, Safety, Sustainability, Innovation, and Economic Development through a Vibrant Urban Trail

Capital, Urban Grant – Awarded \$11,466,938 • See Albuquerque's [winning application](#)

Albuquerque, NM received funding to construct an innovative multi- use urban trail project (called the Albuquerque Rail Trail) through the heart of Downtown Albuquerque.

Making the Case: The Albuquerque Rail Trail will transform Downtown Albuquerque's rail corridor into a vibrant and artistic urban trail that creates opportunities for economic development, healthy recreation, and cultural expression. The Rail Trail repurposes an abandoned railway to connect the diverse communities it travels through and builds bridges across those that have been disconnected by the railroad built in 1880. Following the ancient Camino Real, expanded over centuries by the wheel of modern times, the Rail Trail is the next expression of this essential trade route, embracing a resilient future for Downtown Albuquerque.



Key Application Features:	
Unique Use of RAISE Funds	This project is unique in that it addresses inequities by expanding transportation options, not through a road intervention, but through a bicycle and pedestrian path. The project will improve accessibility for an underserved community by connecting to existing bicycle infrastructure and transportation alternatives.
Using Data to Tell a Story	This project used data to project the benefits of the Rail Trail, ranging from a projected decrease in injuries and fatalities of 345 to projected travel cost savings of \$1.2 million.
First-Time Applicant	While many RAISE grant applicants apply multiple times, improving their applications with each attempt, this was the first time the City of Albuquerque had submitted a RAISE application for the Rail Trail. This underscores the importance of cities seeking funding through BIL, even if they are new to the process.
Partnership and Collaboration	The city engaged diverse-owned businesses and their advocates through a Rail Trail Equity Steering Committee that will encourage equitable development, small business growth, and opportunities for diverse-owned business creation along the trail. The city also engaged the broader community in conversations about the Rail Trail for over a year before applying. In fact, these conversations resulted in the inclusion of art installations, security features, historic references, and low hurdle access points in the plan.