



Meeting Date: Finance Committee Meeting 9/8/2026 01:00 PM

Planning and Development in coordination with Augusta Economic Development Authority (AEDA) requests Commission approval to apply for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Protect Planning Grant to advance resilience planning for the Mike Padgett Highway corridor, with Valencia Way as the priority major-employer arterial focus.

Department:	Planning & Development
Presenter:	Adleasia Cameron, Director
Caption:	Planning and Development in coordination with Augusta Economic Development Authority (AEDA) requests Commission approval to apply for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Protect Planning Grant to advance resilience planning for the Mike Padgett Highway corridor, with Valencia Way as the priority major-employer arterial focus.
Background:	The FHWA PROTECT Notice of Funding Opportunity (FHWA-PROT-26-001) provides funding for transportation resilience planning and related preconstruction activities. The FY 2026 opportunity makes up to \$787 million available overall, including up to \$79 million for Planning Grants. Planning Grants may support resilience planning, vulnerability assessments, predesign and design, data tools, technical capacity building, and evacuation planning. The application deadline is October 9, 2026, at 11:59:59 p.m. ET, with award announcements anticipated the week of December 7, 2026.
Analysis:	The proposed project would evaluate the Mike Padgett Highway corridor and connected critical access roads for vulnerabilities related to flooding, extreme weather, drainage, stormwater, roadway and culvert conditions, emergency access, evacuation, and network continuity. Valencia Way is the recommended priority subarea because it serves as the primary access corridor into Augusta Corporate Park and supports major employers, freight movement, emergency response, and future industrial growth. The planning effort would include hydrologic/hydraulic and drainage analysis; flood and extreme-weather vulnerability assessment; stormwater and culvert improvement concepts; emergency-access and evacuation analysis; resilient corridor predesigns and cost estimates; and documentation to support a future construction-phase resilience application.
Financial Impact:	Eligible Planning Grant activities are eligible for a 100% federal share, with no local match required. Up to \$79 million is available for Planning Grants.
Alternatives:	Do not approve.
Recommendation:	Approve the pursuit of the FHWA PROTECT Planning Grant and authorize staff to develop and submit the application for corridor-wide resilience planning along Mike Padgett Highway, with Valencia Way identified as the priority implementation subarea. Staff should coordinate with AEDA and other appropriate technical and operational partners during application development.

Funds are available in the following accounts:	N/A
<u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u>	