



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of May 17, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-B

**PREPARED BY:** Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

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**SUBJECT:**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and 2023 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program

**Enclosure:** No

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**SUMMARY:**

FHWA has [released](#) the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Applications are due via grants.gov by August 18, 2023.

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the [PROTECT Grant program](#) provides funding to ensure surface transportation resilience to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

The PROTECT discretionary program offers two types of awards: planning grants and Competitive Resilience Improvement Grants.

**Eligibility Information**

Eligible uses include highway, transit, and certain port projects that include resilience planning, strengthening, and protecting evacuation routes, enabling communities to address vulnerabilities and increasing the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.

Eligible applicants include states (or a political subdivision of a state), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), local governments, special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function, Tribal governments, and federal land management agencies (FLMAs), when applying jointly with states.

**Funding Information**

The PROTECT program provides \$1.4 billion in funding over 4 years. Individual award amounts vary. Only 40 percent of award funds can be used for construction of new capacity. Federal cost-sharing will be higher if the eligible entity develops a resilience improvement plan (or is in a state or area served by MPO that does) and the state or MPO incorporates it into its long-range transportation plan.

See [PROTECT Program Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.