

FY23 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program

This is only a summary; applicants should not rely on it to meet application requirements. Study the full grant opportunity announcement before applying for any federal grant.

Program Description – The vision of the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program is to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Projects selected under this program should be grounded in the best available scientific understanding of climate change risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities.

Opportunity Numbers – 693JJ323NF00013	Agency – DOT FHWA	
Obligation Deadline: September 30, 2026	Closing – August 18, 2023, 11:59 PM EST	BCA Required? Yes for Resilience grants.
Available Funding: \$848M	NOFO & Related – https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347585	
Minimum Award: Planning Grants: \$100K Min -No Max. Resilience Grants: \$500K Min - No Max.	Eligible Project Cost Restrictions: See Below	
Eligible Applicants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) State 2.) MPO 3.) Local Government 4.) Indian Tribe 5.) Multi-State or multijurisdictional group 	Required Cost Share: The Federal share of a resilience grant may not exceed 80 percent of total project cost. Planning grants are eligible for 100 percent federal cost share.	

Selection Criteria: Applications must describe, in detail with supporting documentation, how the project addresses each of these criterion, or else to expressly state that the project does not address the criterion. Insufficient information to assess any criterion will negatively impact the project rating.

Vulnerability and Risk	Criticality to Community	Design Elements	Public Engagement, Partnerships & Collaboration	Equity & Justice 40	Climate Change & Sustainability	Innovation	Schedule & Budget
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PROTECT Grant Priorities – Planning grant selection criteria: #1 Program Alignment, #2 Schedule & Budget, #3 Public Engagement, Partnerships, & Collaboration, #4 Innovation. FHWA will prioritize planning projects that demonstrate exceptional benefits under merit criteria #3. Resilience projects will be given priority if they receive an economic analysis rating of medium or higher, are on the applicable Resilience Improvement Plan, demonstrate exceptional benefits under the Equity & Justice 40 merit criteria, promote workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation, and construction readiness.

Eligible Activities –

Planning Grants –

- Develop a Resilience Improvement Plan
- Resilience Planning, predesign, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios
- Technical capacity building by the eligible entity to facilitate the ability of the eligible entity to assess the vulnerabilities of the surface transportation assets and community response strategies of the eligible entity under current conditions and a range of potential future conditions
- Evacuation planning and preparation

Resilience Grants

- One or more construction activities to improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions, such as sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters
- One or more projects that strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events

Eligible Project Costs –

Planning Grants	Resilience Grants
Development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, other preconstruction activities, and other activities consistent with carrying out an eligible PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program Planning project.	1. Development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities; and 2. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of real property (including land related to the project and improvements to land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment directly related to improving system performance, and operational improvement

Application & Narrative Requirements – The application must include the following: Standard Forms (SF-424); SF-424A & SF-424B (Non-Construction Projects); SF-424C & SF-424D (Construction Projects); Project Narrative (25 page max). Project Narrative should follow outline and include I. Basic Project Information – Description, Location, and Parties. II. Grant Funds, Sources and Uses of all Project Funding. III. Merit Criteria. IV. Benefit-Cost Analysis. V. FHWA Priority Considerations.