



**Agenda Item Number
10 a.
Report of the Executive Committee**

Date: September 28, 2023

Presenter: Brenda Wilson

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

August 14, 2023, MEETING NOTES:

Policy / Action Items

1. **PROTECT Grant** - the Lane Economic Committee recommended the LCOG Board provide a letter of support for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant application being prepared by the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO) in partnership with Lane County. While the MPO is required to be the applicant based on the grant's eligibility criteria, the proposal was been crafted with Lane County staff from several departments and will be a joint effort given the shared need, geography, and opportunity to leverage critical, high-quality work.

The PROTECT program was created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to provide funding for resilience planning and construction projects. The IIJA includes \$1.4 billion for the new PROTECT discretionary grant program. There are four types of competitive grants:

1. Planning Grants—Enable communities to assess vulnerabilities to current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing conditions and plan transportation improvements and emergency response strategies to address those vulnerabilities.
2. Resilience Improvement Grants—Fund construction activities to improve the ability of existing surface transportation assets, communities, coastal infrastructure,

and natural infrastructure to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster.

3. Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants—Strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events.

4. At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants—to strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate, or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure at risk from coastal flooding, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surge, or sea level rise.

Following recommendations from Lane County’s Climate Action Plan and CLMPO’s 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Lane County and CLMPO intend to work with regional partners to improve the region’s capacity to respond to and recover from hazards such as a Cascadia Subduction Zone seismic event and climate change. Planned project work includes:

- conducting a vulnerability assessment of the transportation system,
- establishing a regional network of Emergency Transportation Routes, and
- developing a nature-based solutions strategy.

One anticipated product is 30% design for at least one and up to three (3) capital projects in order to be poised for a PROTECT capital project grant(s) in future rounds.

The Executive Committee was asked to approve the submission of a Letter of Support on behalf of LCOG for the PROTECT grant and unanimously approved the submission.