



July 31, 2023

PROTECT Program
Office of Acquisition and Grants Management
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Grant Review Team:

On behalf of the Central Lane MPO's Policy Board, the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), I express full support for the Central Lane MPO's (CLMPO) proposal to the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program, *Resilient Lane*. Our region, in Oregon's Willamette Valley, is already experiencing the impacts of climate change and destructive natural hazards, including flooding, wildfires, erosion, and heat domes. We are continually bracing for the next event and know an earthquake and resultant tsunami along the Cascadia Subduction Zone is imminent.

We are proactively working to combat climate change impacts and prepare for natural hazard events. In January 2021, MPC unanimously approved the CLMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. For the first time, this federally required plan holistically addresses resiliency and directs action to improve the ability of our region's multimodal surface transportation system to respond to and recover from disasters. The *Resilient Lane* project is a critical part of that effort. While many of our local jurisdictions have adopted and are implementing climate and natural hazards plans, they lack a specific focus on surface transportation resilience. This work will fill that gap with a coordinated countywide effort that will assess and address vulnerabilities and recognize the interplay and dependencies between our urban MPO area and Lane County's vast rural expanse.

We will approach the *Resilient Lane* work through the lens of equity. Many of our most transportation disadvantaged communities are also the most vulnerable to damage and disruption caused by natural hazards and climate change impacts. Community engagement and trust building will be integrated into each phase of this project. Our ultimate goal is a data driven, community forward planning process that will place CLMPO and Lane County in a position to better respond when natural hazards strike, and to move forward with surface transportation projects that align with identified needs and benefits.

While critical, this scale of project is not feasible without PROTECT program funding. We urge your approval of this proposed planning project.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

Steve Moe
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Chair, Central Lane MPO Policy Board