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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$830 Million in Grants to Make Transportation Infrastructure More Resilient to Climate Change

Thursday, April 11, 2024

WASHINGTON – The Biden-Harris Administration today announced nearly \$830 million in grant awards for 80 projects nationwide that will help states and local communities save taxpayers money while strengthening surface-transportation systems and making them more resilient to extreme weather events worsened by the climate crisis, flooding, sea-level rise, heat waves, and other disasters. These grants are the first of their kind dedicated to transportation infrastructure resilience and were made possible by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program, which complements PROTECT Formula funding that is already flowing to states for these types of projects. To strengthen America’s climate resilience, President Biden has [secured more than \\$50 billion](#) for climate resilience and adaptation through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, and established a [National Climate Resilience Framework](#), which is advancing locally tailored, community-driven climate resilience strategies.

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change and are causing increasing damage to our transportation system, which was primarily designed and built before the realities of our current climate. As part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the PROTECT Grant Program is funding projects that will strengthen the country’s surface transportation system against extreme weather events, including roads, bridges, highways, public transportation, pedestrian facilities, ports, and intercity passenger rail. By increasing the resilience of these assets, these investments will reduce short- and long-term costs by minimizing future needs for maintenance and reconstruction.

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“From wildfires shutting down freight rail lines in California to mudslides closing down a highway in Colorado, from a drought causing the halt of barge traffic on the Mississippi River to subways being flooded in New York, extreme weather, made worse by climate change, is damaging America’s transportation infrastructure, cutting people off from getting to where they need to go, and threatening to raise the cost of goods by disrupting supply chains,” said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**. “Today, through a first-of-its-kind program created by President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, we are awarding nearly \$830 million to make transportation infrastructure in 39 states and territories more resilient against climate change, so people and supply chains can continue to move safely.”

“Every community in America knows the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, including increasingly frequent heavy rain and flooding events across the country and sea-level rise that is inundating infrastructure in coastal states,” said **FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt**. “This investment from the Biden-Harris Administration will ensure our infrastructure is built to withstand more frequent and unpredictable extreme weather, which is vitally important for people and businesses that rely on roads and bridges being open to keep our economy moving.”

As part of today’s announcement, the Federal Highway Administration is awarding funding under four different grant types to 80 projects in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands:

- **Planning Grants:** Twenty-six projects will receive approximately \$45 million to help grant recipients develop resilience-improvement plans, resilience planning, predesign and design activities, capacity-building activities, and evacuation planning and preparation initiatives.
- **Resilience Improvement Grants:** Thirty-six projects will receive approximately \$621 million to enhance the resilience of existing surface-transportation infrastructure by improving drainage, relocating roadways, elevating bridges, or incorporating upgrades to allow infrastructure to meet or exceed design standards.
- **Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes:** Ten projects will receive approximately \$45 million for improvements to enhance the resilience of evacuation routes or to enhance their capacity and add redundant evacuation routes.
- **At-risk Coastal Infrastructure:** Eight projects will receive approximately \$119 million to protect, strengthen, or relocate coastal

highway and non-rail infrastructure.

The program also will improve equity and further environmental justice by addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities that are often the most vulnerable to hazards. The program encouraged applicants from all levels of government—from local governments and Tribes to state DOTs—to apply for PROTECT discretionary-grant funding, which complements the more than \$4.3 billion in PROTECT formula funding that is already flowing to states. Consistent with the objectives of the National Climate Resilience Framework, these awards will help these communities across the country become not only more resilient, but also more safe, healthy, equitable, and economically strong.

The full list of grant recipients is available here:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/grant_recipients/

Project selections in this round of grants include:

- **In Iowa, the City of Cedar Rapids** will receive \$56 million to replace the 86-year-old, structurally deficient Arc of Justice Bridge, which provides a critical connection for residents and emergency services during extreme flooding events. The project is part of a larger flood-control system that will mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase infrastructure resilience, making it more resistant to flooding.
- **In California, the City of Davis** will receive nearly \$24 million to install cool pavement technologies and replace roadway underlayment to rehabilitate several portions of roadways in the Davis community to help guard against extreme heat conditions, combat urban heat island (UHI) effects, repair underlayment to state of good repair, and make other safety improvements.
- **In Arkansas, the City of West Memphis** will receive more than \$16 million to restore hundreds of acres of floodplain along the Mississippi River's western bank using nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands and new hardwood forests. These measures will help to protect five major surface-transportation routes - I-40, I-55, two freight-rail lines, and the area's only dedicated bicycle/pedestrian crossing - from repeated flooding.
- **The City of Philadelphia** will receive \$14 million to rehabilitate two deteriorating bridges over Wissahickon Creek in Northwest Philadelphia. Built in the 1800s, the Bells Mill Road and Valley Green Road bridges provide access to Wissahickon Valley Park, a noteworthy

natural destination in the city that experiences frequent flooding. Improvements also include the creation and restoration of wetlands.

- **In South Dakota, the Oglala Sioux Tribe** will receive \$60 million to improve two sections of BIA Route 33, which crosses the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in rural southwestern South Dakota and connects the communities of Rockyford, Manderson, and Red Cloud. The project includes regrading the roadway to widen ditches, increasing the size and number of culverts, raising sections of the road, and widening the road to add shoulders for emergencies and evacuations.

From rebuilding our Nation’s infrastructure, to creating a manufacturing and innovation boom powered by well-paid jobs that don’t require a 4-year degree, to building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient, President Biden’s Investing in America agenda is growing the American economy from the bottom up and the middle out.

For more information on the PROTECT Program, please visit <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/>.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
855-368-4200

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