



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



Action Item

June 2023

Approach to PROTECT Funds

- New Federal Program to Improve the Resiliency of the Transportation System
- MnDOT providing 30% of its statewide share to the Area Transportation Partnerships (ATPs) including the Met Council
- 2025–2027: Recommendation Today
- Incorporate language into the 2024 solicitation application to identify new projects for 2028 and 2029
- Explore additional opportunities during the Reg. Solicitation Evaluation for the 2026 solicitation cycle and beyond (2030+)



PROTECT Funding by Year

	2024	2025 - 2027	2028 - 2029	2030 - 2031
PROTECT Funding	\$6,278,400	\$6,278,400 (2025), \$4,708,800 (2026), \$3,531,600 (2027)	2024 Regional Solicitation Cycle	2026 Regional Solicitation Cycle
Approach	Existing Projects	\$14,518,800 for Existing or New Projects	New Projects	New Projects

- PROTECT funds in 2024 were inserted into the draft TIP and will be used on existing Regional Solicitation projects given the TIP timelines/rules.
- TAC F&P requested 2025-2027 PROTECT options that could explore unfunded projects from the last Regional Solicitation given that the years line up with the last solicitation.

Eligible Elements



Elements Identified in Current Regional Solicitation Projects

- Storm sewer
- Ponding
- Erosion and landscaping
- Retaining walls
- Bridges over floodplains
- Road realignments out of floodplains

2025-2027: Option 1 Use on Projects/Reduce Overprogramming

- Similar to the approach for 2024 funds, use the PROTECT funding on eligible project elements within recently selected Regional Solicitation projects.
- Option 1 is less viable of an option if both program year shifts are approved.
 - In 2025 and 2026, investment in new projects is needed as there is no longer overprogramming to pay down.

2025-2027: Option 2 Use on New Projects

The next unfunded project from 2 of the 12 application categories in the 2022 Regional Solicitation had eligible PROTECT elements and was interested in the PROTECT funding.

Application Category	Project	Eligible Elements	Eligible Costs	Total Project Request
Strategic Capacity	Carver Co Highway 5 Lake Minnewashta and Arboretum Access and Mobility Project	Raising roadway out of the floodplain & reconnecting aquatic habitats	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Roadway Reconstruction	Washington Co CR 19A/100 th St Realignment	Storm sewer, raising roadway out of floodplain, bridge	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Total				\$17,000,000

2025-2027: Option 2 Use on New Projects

- There is \$14,518,800 of PROTECT Funds available for 2025-2027.
- If both program year extensions are approved, then this creates a surplus of \$3,669,013 in 2026, so a total of up to \$18,187,813 is available. Part of this surplus could be used to help fund projects now.
- The total funding requests for the two unfunded projects is \$17,000,000, so both the Carver County and Washington County projects could be funded. This would use also \$2,481,200 of 2026 STP funds.
- With only \$1,187,813 of STP funds remaining in 2026, this could be added to 2024 Regional Solicitation cycle or used to fund a small unfunded project from the last funding cycle. TAC did not offer a recommendation on these funds, so the funding would default to being added to the 2024 Regional Solicitation cycle.

TAC Recommendation

That the Transportation Advisory Board approve distribution of \$14,518,800 of PROTECT funding for fiscal years 2025 through 2027 along with \$2,481,200 in 2026 STP funding to fully fund the federal requests for the Highway 5 Carver County Lake Minnewashta & Arboretum and Washington County CR 19A/100th Street projects from the 2022 Regional Solicitation cycle.



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