

Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board; Transportation Committee

From: Anaka Maher, Senior Transportation Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning

Meeting Date: January 22, 2025 (Transportation Committee: January 21, 2025)

Subject: Resolution to Accept a PROTECT Grant for the Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut

Background: NVCOG, in collaboration with CRCOG, NECCOG, and NHCOG as sub-recipients, received \$1.2 million in funding under the 2023 USDOT *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program* to assess and determine the vulnerability and risks to the transportation infrastructure and services from current and future major natural events. This effort will be completed in collaboration between the inland CT COGs and will develop a Resilience Improvement Plan for the northern, non-coastal portion of Connecticut. The plan will complete a risk-based evaluation of impacts of extreme weather events (particularly extreme precipitation events) and examine how climate stressors (such as increases in annual precipitation and severity of events) may directly or indirectly affect local/municipal transportation assets through a horizon date of 2050.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: A regional Resilience Improvement Plan will identify and prioritize vulnerability and risks to transportation infrastructure. Part of the Plan will be a prioritization list of projects to improve resiliency. Projects included on this list will be eligible for implementation funds under future PROTECT funding.

Financial/Operational Impact: Of the grant total, \$1 million is budgeted for the hiring of a consultant while the remainder is budgeted for project administration from each COG, with NVCOG as the lead agency receiving \$125,000, CRCOG receiving \$35,000, NECCOG receiving \$20,000, and NHCOG receiving \$20,000.

Project Schedule: The grant agreement with FHWA is currently in progress and it is expected to be finalized in the next month. NVCOG anticipates releasing an RFQ for consultant services for this Plan following the grant agreement.

Recommendation: In order to receive the grant funds for this project, CRCOG Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on January 21, 2025.

Attachments:

- Resolution to Accept a PROTECT Grant for the Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A PROTECT GRANT FOR THE
RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND VULNERABILITY
ASSESSMENT FOR NON-COASTAL CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, there is need for improving climate resiliency of transportation infrastructure within the region served by the Capitol Region Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program is a grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) applied as the lead agency alongside sub-recipients CRCOG, Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG), and Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) for a 2023 PROTECT Grant of \$1,200,000 for a Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, a Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut will identify and prioritize vulnerability and risks to transportation infrastructure, including a prioritization list of projects to improve resiliency that may be eligible for implementation funds under any future PROTECT funding; and

WHEREAS, NVCOG has been awarded \$1,200,000 through the PROTECT Grant to conduct the Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the CRCOG Transportation Committee supports the acceptance of funding for the creation of a Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CRCOG Policy Board authorizes Matthew W. Hart, the Executive Director, to execute on behalf of CRCOG an agreement with the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and any addendums thereto and to accept grant funds for the purposes outlined above.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on January 22, 2025.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary