

NCTCOG PRESENTATION

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2026 PROTECT Competitive Grant Program

Surface Transportation Technical Committee

Consent Agenda – Action Item (Endorsement)

October 23, 2026

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program

Overview

PROTECT: Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, & Cost-Saving Transportation

PROTECT Grant Category	Funding	Purpose
Planning Grants	**$79,000,000**	▪ Development of Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP) by state or MPO ▪ Resilience planning, design, or data/tools development to simulate transportation disruption scenarios, including vulnerability assessments ▪ Technical capacity building to assess current/future vulnerability of surface transportation assets & community response strategies ▪ Evacuation planning & preparation
Resilience Improvement Grants	**$511,000,000**	Construction activities to improve ability for existing transportation assets to withstand weather event or natural disaster elements, or increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions.
Community Resilience & Evacuation Route Grants	**$79,000,000**	Projects to strengthen & protect evacuation routes essential for supporting emergency responses & critical services during extreme weather events, including for evacuation, rescue/recovery operations, incident management, & access to/from major healthcare, employment, logistics, utility, & federal government centers.
At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants	**$79,000,000**	Projects to strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate, or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway & non-rail infrastructure that are subject to, or face increased long-term risks of, a coastal weather event, natural disaster, or changing conditions.

Application Deadline – October 9, 2026

Awards Announced – December 12, 2026

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program

Overview

Eligible Facilities:

- Highway project eligible for assistance under Title 23
- Public transportation facility/service eligible for assistance under Chapter 53 of Title 49
- Intercity passenger rail *(Section 24102 of Title 49)*
- Port facility and/or its transport mode connections that improve evacuation or disaster relief efficiency

Cost Sharing:

- 100% Federal – Planning Grants & Resilience Grants for Tribes & Atlantic/Pacific territories
- 80% Federal – Resilience Grants (all other groups)
- Non-Federal Reduction for Resilience Grants:
  - **7%** – Eligible State/MPO RIP with prioritized project
  - **3%** – Eligible RIP incorporated into MTP or SLRTP

Obligation Deadlines:

- FY2024 – Sept 30, 2027
- FY2025 – Sept 30, 2028
- FY2026 – Sept 30, 2029

Award Limitations:

- None for Planning Grants
- Resilience Grants:
  - ≤ 40% for new capacity construction
  - ≤ 10% for planning/development activities

Application Limits:

- No limitations *(one application/project)*
- If submitting more than one application, funding priority must be indicated for each application
- For projects eligible for more than one Resilience Grant category, funding from one category may be awarded

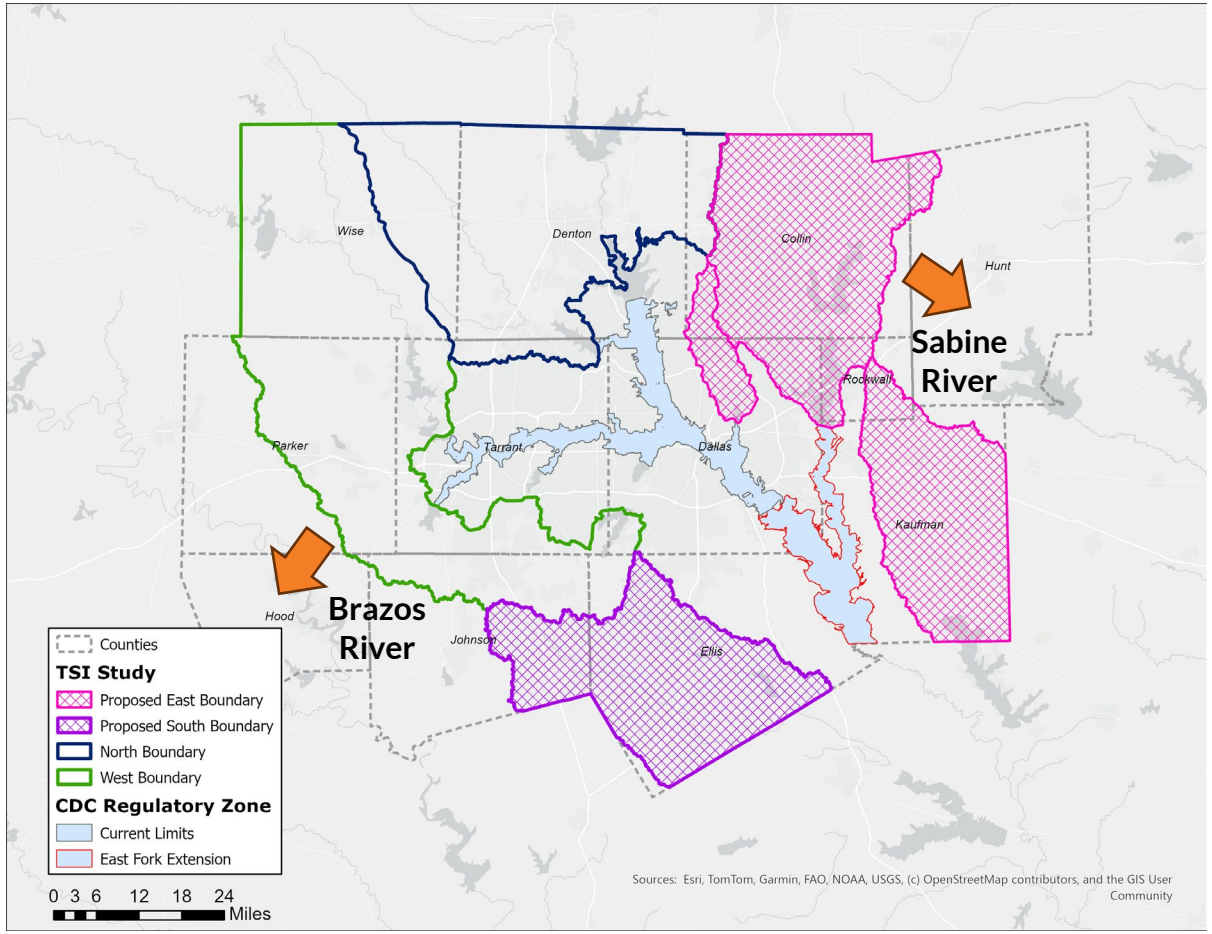
Statutory Set-Asides:

- ≥ 25% for rural areas
- ≤ 25% for intercity passenger rail facilities/services
- ≤ 2% for Tribes
- If OST determines rural/Tribal set-asides are not utilized, other eligible entity reallocation may occur

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program – Planning Grant

Submitted Project – South/East Region TSI Study Expansion

- **Replicate TSI Study** for remaining Trinity River watersheds outside of Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) regulatory/flowage areas
- **East TSI Study Area:**
  Upper Trinity, East Fork Trinity, & Clear Creek watersheds *(covers portions of Collin, Dallas, Hunt, Kaufman, and Rockwall counties)*
- **South TSI Study Area:**
  Chambers Creek watershed *(covers portions of Ellis and Johnson counties)*
- **Proposed Budget** – $7 Million *(100% Federal)*



FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program – Resilience Grant

Submitted Project – Sustaining Fleets for Small Area Transit Providers

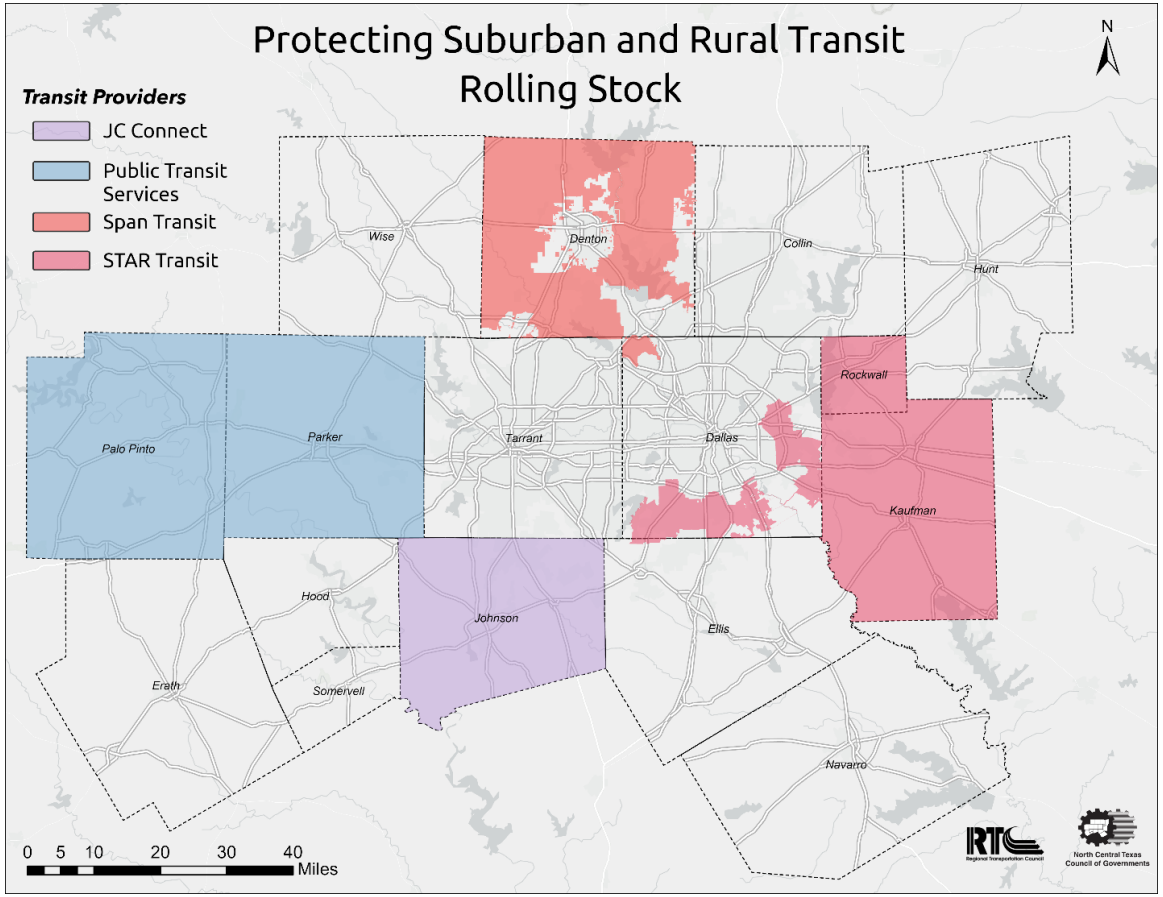
Purchase **canopies**, awnings, or other coverings to **sustain existing fleets** for small area providers

Potential Project Locations:

Cleburne
Weatherford
Mineral Wells
Denton
Terrell
Mesquite
DeSoto
Ennis
Lancaster
Rockwall

Proposed Budget:

PROVIDER	TOTAL	Federal (Grant)	Local (TDCs)
Johnson County Connect	$300,000	$300,000	60,000
Public Transit Services	$100,000	$100,000	20,000
Span, Inc.	$300,000	$300,000	60,000
STAR Transit	$400,000	$400,000	80,000
TOTAL	**$1,100,000**	**$1,100,000**	**220,000**



This project was not presented for STTC's original action on September 25, 2026.

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program

Application Approval & Development Schedule

August 27, 2026	**FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Release**
September 25, 2026	STTC Action
October 8, 2026	RTC Action
October 9, 2026	**FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program: Application Deadline – Grants.gov**
October 22, 2026	Executive Board Endorsement
October 23, 2026	**STTC Endorsement** *(Sustaining Fleets for Small Area Transit Providers)*

REQUESTED ACTION

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program

STTC Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Approval for:

Submitting the following projects for the **FY2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation *(PROTECT)* Grant Program**:

- **South/East Region TSI Study Expansion ($7M) –** PROTECT Planning Grant
- **Sustaining Fleets for Small Area Transit Providers ($1.1M) –** PROTECT Resilience Grant

Administratively amending NCTCOG's Transportation Improvement Program *(TIP)* and the State Transportation Improvement Program *(STIP)*, as well as other planning and administrative documents, to include the proposed projects if selected for FY2024-2026 PROTECT awards.

STTC Action Item – October 23, 2026

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