



Barnstable County

Regional Government of Cape Cod
3195 Main Street | Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630

Barnstable County Economic Development Council

February 12, 2025

Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary,

The Barnstable County Economic Development Council strongly supports the Barnstable County/Cape Cod Commission's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) Planning Grant application related to critical roadways on Cape Cod. The proposed planning project is worthy of approval due to its comprehensive approach to addressing critical evacuation routes and emergency access, infrastructure deficiencies, structural resiliency, and enhancing safety.

The Commission has completed a Low-Lying Roads assessment with all 15 towns in Barnstable County to identify adaptation alternatives and resilience improvements. Within that state-of-the-art modeling and planning exercise roadway segments, bridges and culverts were assessed for vulnerability from the combined effects of storm surge and sea level rise. Further planning and design work is needed to identify the most critical and vulnerable priority locations and advance design concepts to a final stage.

PROTECT Planning Grant funds will be utilized to build on the efforts of the Low-Lying Roads assessment to support municipalities further advancing design plans for the most critical roadways. Road segments will be prioritized by the near-term probability of impacts that would result in the largest network of communities being disconnected from critical evacuation routes. Grant funds will allow design to be advanced to a stage where municipalities will be positioned to seek PROTECT implementation grant funding for resilience improvement project construction and completion.

Thank you for your attention and consideration regarding this project.

Best Regards,

Robert Talerman
Chair, Barnstable County Economic Development Council