

PROTECT Program

What is the PROTECT Program?

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program, including both formula funding distributed to states and competitive grants. The purpose of this program is to help make surface transportation more resilient to current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing conditions, such as severe storms, flooding, drought, levee and dam failures, wildfire, rockslides, mudslides, sea level rise, extreme weather, including extreme temperature, and earthquakes through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

Within the [PROTECT Formula Program](#), federal funds are appropriated directly to state DOTs to support planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is scheduled to receive \$239,843,370 (about \$240 million) in PROTECT formula funding between FY22-FY26, averaging \$48 million per year.

PROTECT Formula Program FY 22-26 Allocations

PROTECT Formula Program					
Fiscal year (FY)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)	\$1.403B	\$1.431B	\$1.459B	\$1.489B	\$1.518B
Georgia Apportionment	\$46.09M	\$47.01M	\$47.95M	\$48.91M	\$49.89M

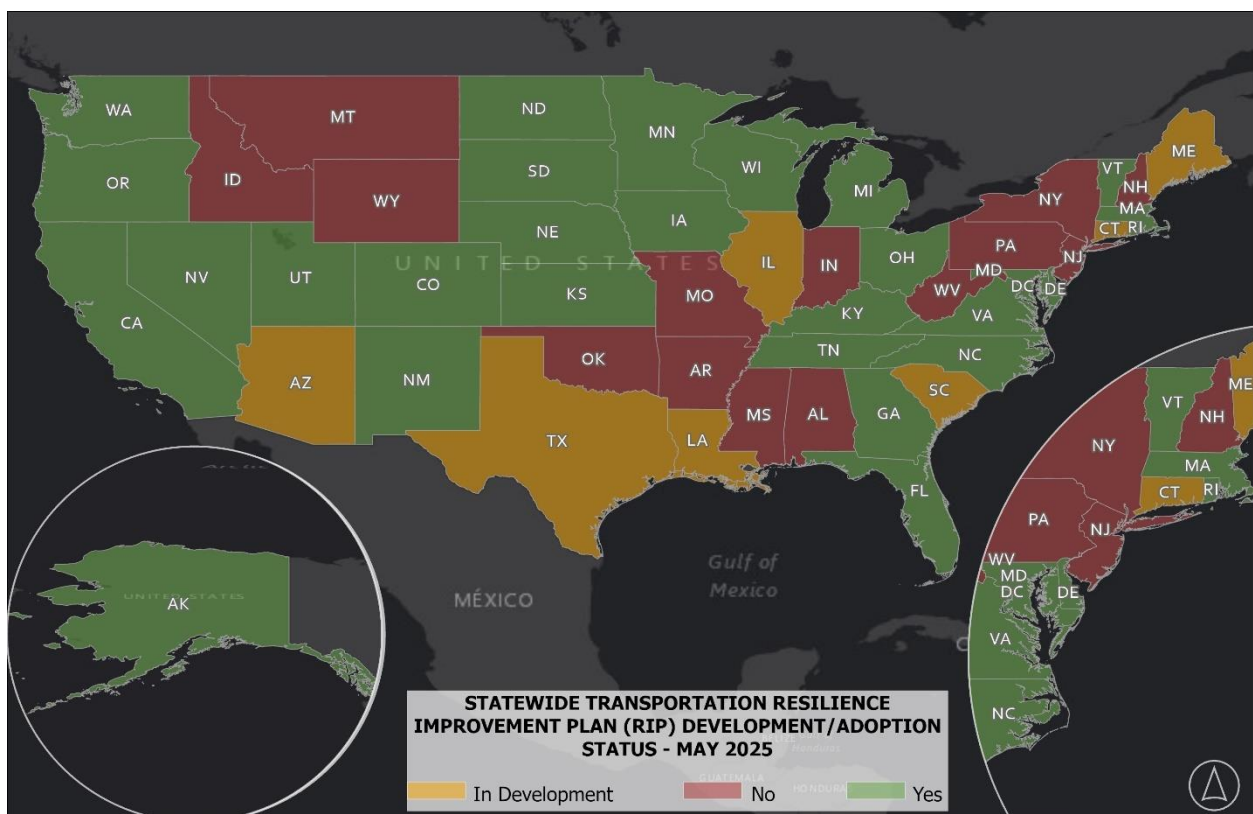
What is Resilience?

FHWA defines resilience as the “*ability to anticipate, prepare for, or adapt to conditions or withstand, respond to, or recover rapidly from disruptions.*” Similarly, AASHTO defines resilience as the “*ability of a system to provide an acceptable level of service and functionality in the face of major shocks and disruptions to normal operations.*”

What is a Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP)?

A Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP) is a voluntary, risk-based assessment of vulnerable transportation assets in immediate and long-term transportation planning that demonstrates a systemic approach to surface transportation system resilience ([23 U.S.C. 176\(e\)](#)). A Resilience Improvement Plan can reduce Non-Federal match by up to 10% for both PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant projects ([23 U.S.C. 176\(e\)\(1\)\(B\)](#)).

Georgia is one of the states that have developed and adopted the Statewide [Resilience Improvement Plan \(RIP\)](#). The map below shows status of development and adoption of the RIP nationwide.



The Statewide [RIP](#) establishes GDOT's resilience goals; outlines existing resilience best practices, efforts, laws, and tools; assesses risk and vulnerability of the state's transportation network; recommends resilience improvement policies and strategies; sets targets; and includes a prioritized list of projects eligible for PROTECT Formula Program funds. This prioritized list includes projects highly rated based on the assessment of vulnerability and criticality of transportation assets such as pavement, bridges, and culverts.

The Statewide [RIP](#) was developed within the framework of the GDOT [Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan/2050 Statewide Transportation Plan \(SSTP/SWTP\)](#) and aligned with the Transportation Asset Management Plan ([Transportation Asset Management \(TAM\) - Georgia DOT](#)).

GDOT Resiliency Committee

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has created a Resiliency Committee charged with a wide spectrum of responsibilities in managing the PROTECT Program and the Carbon Reduction Program ([Carbon Reduction Program - Georgia DOT](#)). This includes providing data, developing plan goals, submitting projects for consideration, establishing the screening criteria, approving the prioritization methodology, and reviewing the plan document, as well as reviewing and approving project recommending eligibility for PROTECT formula funding. The Committee is comprised of representatives from each of GDOT's Divisions, as well as the Federal Highway Administration's Georgia Division Office environmental representative. The diversity of the committee reinforces that resiliency is everyone's responsibility and working together will strengthen Georgia's transportation network.

