

**National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) Program FY2023 Fact Sheets**

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## Watsonville-Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program

California Department of Transportation

*Santa Cruz County, California*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$30,000,000

### Quick hits:

- **The project:** The funding will cover auxiliary lane and bus on shoulder (BOS) access on State Route 1 (SR 1); new bicycle and pedestrian overcrossings as part of the New Coastal Rail Trail (CRT) within the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The applicant will also purchase four new Zero-Emission Buses (ZEBs)
- **Economic benefits:** Caltrans estimates the project will create 2,167 jobs; improve access to three of the top employers in Santa Cruz County, including the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, County of Santa Cruz, and Dominican Hospital – all employers with between 1,000 and 4,999 employees.
- **Economic importance:** According to Caltrans, SR 1 is a critical corridor for regional and interregional travel and experiences significant levels of delays daily as the main commuter route linking (1) the Watsonville area to job centers in the Santa Cruz area, and (2) to SR 17 for access to Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. Most of the freight activity in Santa Cruz County is also centered in Watsonville, with the top four freight industries in Santa Cruz County being retail trade, manufacturing, construction, and farming. The Project's auxiliary lanes and BOS facility will reduce travel time while also reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), providing economic benefits, reducing transportation costs for goods movement, and fostering access to new and existing jobs. Similarly, the CRT is key for transportation, recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-serving purposes. The project will also enhance recreational and tourism opportunities.
- **Safety benefits:** According to Caltrans, the overall collision rate on SR 1 in the Project area is 30% higher than comparable facilities throughout California. Without improvements, Caltrans estimates that collisions on the SR 1 mainline are expected to increase by 17% by 2045.
- **Resilience benefits:** SR 1 is a main evacuation route from the mountain regions, connecting with SR 9. The project will provide improvements for auxiliary lanes for emergency evacuations and continuous standard width shoulders for emergency, enforcement, and disabled vehicles for the entire length of the project area.
- **Climate benefits:** Given the location adjacent to the coast, the project area is susceptible to climate change impacts primarily due to flooding from extreme storms. The Project's design includes stormwater features to account for the additional climate risk from flooding and run-off to the ocean to improve climate resiliency. Caltrans estimates this Project will reduce over 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

## **Metra UP North Rebuild: Fullerton to Addison**

Metra Commuter Railroad

*Chicago, Illinois*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$117,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** The funding will replace approximately 11 bridges, 4 miles of track structure, and more than 1.75 miles of retaining walls along Metra's UP-N line. Additionally, each replaced bridge will have a walkway and sacrificial beams, street repaving, underpass lighting, and pedestrian curb improvements.
- **Economic benefits:** The project will aim to enhance safe and efficient transportation choices for individuals who reside in the northern neighborhoods of Chicago and nearby suburbs. The line carries a substantive share of Metra's reverse commuters as well as connects stations in suburban downtowns to nearby jobs.
- **Economic importance:** Metra estimates that the project will reduce passenger delay by 38 million hours over the next 30 years. The location of the project and its ability to connect several employment centers and areas experiencing economic development make it likely to generate significant national economic benefits.
- **Safety benefits:** According to Metra, current conditions (lack of safety features and weight restrictions) risk the potential for slow orders or even temporary closures for emergency repairs that would be costly and that would disrupt the only transit option that connects Kenosha, WI; Lake County, IL, and downtown Chicago. Metra estimates nearly 350 crashes and any associated injuries, fatalities, and property damage could be avoided over the first 30 years of the project's life.
- **Resilience benefits:** The project addresses the oldest bridges and retaining walls along the line that are slated for the replacement to provide safe, affordable, and resilient structures. The new structures will include sacrificial beams and attenuators to improve safety and resilience in the event of a vehicular strike.
- **Climate benefits:** Making public transportation more reliable and attractive to riders is a key solution to mitigate further climate change impacts from the transportation sector. The project will improve energy efficiency, reduce dependence on oil and diesel fuel, improve air quality, and reduce congestion-related emissions.

## **Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project**

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, with Ohio Department of Transportation  
*Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$250,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** The funding will cover construction of a new bridge alongside the existing Brent Spence Bridge (BSB), rehabilitate and reconfigure the existing Brent Spence Bridge, and will also include improvements to an approximately eight-mile interstate corridor serving the bridges. The award also compliments the \$1.3 billion awarded earlier in 2023 by the FHWA's Large Bridge Grants program.
- **Economic benefits:** The project will expand highway access to central business districts of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky; According to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Ohio Department of Transportation, over \$400B in freight movement crosses the BSB annually, with anticipated growth to over \$800B by 2030.
- **Economic importance:** The project will address one of the worst truck bottlenecks in the nation, as ranked by The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), improving a critical highway network connection from Florida to Canada.
- **Safety benefits:** The project involves construction of a new companion bridge, the distribution of traffic on the two bridges that will allow for reduced weaving and merging for all travelers, and the reconfiguration of the existing BSB from four lanes to three lanes on each deck, allowing space for shoulders. The applicants estimate that shifting traffic to the new bridge is expected to result in more than 150 avoided crashes annually, amounting to over \$20M in benefits in the opening year of the project alone.
- **Resilience benefits:** Providing additional lane capacity, additional cross-river capacity and improvements to the bridge approaches, and construction of the companion bridge provide critical system resiliency in the corridor. Construction of the companion bridge will also significantly support emergency and disaster preparedness.

## **I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge Replacement Project**

Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development

*Lake Charles, Louisiana*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$150,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** The funding will design and construct a new Bridge over the Calcasieu River with three travel lanes and one auxiliary lane in each direction.
- **Economic benefits:** LADOTD estimates the project will create 16,120 jobs; generate over \$800M in benefits.
- **Economic importance:** The segment of I-10 from San Antonio, Texas connecting through Lake Charles to New Orleans, Louisiana is one of the Top 25 Domestic Freight Corridors for commodity tonnage in the nation. LADOTD expects the value of truck freight moved in the region to grow from \$13.5B in 2020 to \$28.2B by 2050. The project will aim to relieve a national freight bottleneck and improve regional mobility challenges in the areas surrounding the 70-year-old Calcasieu River Bridge on I-10 in southwest Louisiana.
- **Safety benefits:** According to LADOTD, the project area has a crash rate 66% higher than comparable multi-lane, limited-access facilities throughout Louisiana. The project aims to improve bridge design and help relieve congestion to help promote free-flowing traffic and reduce crashes.
- **Resilience benefits:** The Bridge was cited as one of the region's primary bottleneck during at least seven recent evacuation events according to the applicant, including Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020 and Hurricane Ida in 2021. Increasing capacity on the Bridge and strengthening its structural resilience will make disaster evacuation and emergency response faster and safer.
- **Climate benefits:** According to LADOTD, the Bridge currently handles nearly 80,000 crossings each day, and it's projected to handle over 99,000 crossings by 2042, more than double the design threshold. GHG emissions from the idling congestion on the Bridge have serious environmental health implications to the surrounding communities, and without this project, air quality will worsen for residents as congestion continues to rise. LADOTD estimates the project will remove 1.6 million (M) tons of GHG through congestion relief.

## **Improvements to the I-10 Freight Corridor**

Mississippi Department of Transportation

*Diamondhead, Mississippi*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$60,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** The project will widen I-10 from four to six lanes from just west of Diamondhead to just east of County Farm Road. It also includes intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements from approximately 1.5 miles west of the SR 603/43 interchange to approximately 2 miles east of US 49.
- **Economic benefits:** This project will strengthen access to locations across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and major southern cities, including New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houston and Mobile. Additionally, the project will promote future economic growth, including freight industries that also support international trade, and vitality in the region.
- **Economic importance:** This project spans a large portion of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which experiences heavy traffic from freight, residents and tourists and facilitates access to the nearby Hancock County Port Bienville and State Port of Gulfport, which also serves as a strategic port for military operations.
- **Safety benefits:** Based on the statewide crash rate for similar facilities with similar traffic counts, MDOT expects this this project to reduce the project area crash rate by 22%.
- **Climate benefits:** The proposed project improvements will improve overall energy efficiency and result in a reduction in pollution and noise. In addition to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, construction materials will minimize the carbon footprint and provide a safer and healthier working environment for employees.

## **Strengthening Transportation Evacuation Resilient Lifeline by Improving the Network's Grid (STERLING)**

North Carolina Department of Transportation

*Plymouth, North Carolina and Manteo, North Carolina*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$110,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** This project will replace the Alligator River Bridge on U.S. Highway 64, which is currently a machinery-driven movable swing bridge, with a modern high-rise fixed-span bridge. The new bridge will be approximately 3.2 miles in length, with a vertical clearance of 65 feet to accommodate the navigational channel, two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders, and railings to separate bicycle traffic from vehicle traffic.
- **Economic benefits:** The STERLING Project will reduce wait times for travelers and help increase dependability of transportation options on US 64.
- **Economic importance:** NCDOT estimates that Alligator River bridge closings have accounted for more than 300 hours of delay annually and millions of dollars in recent years. The STERLING Project will include fiber optic cable and information technology services (ITS) improvements along the US 64 corridor, which has the potential to increase property values along US 64.
- **Safety benefits:** Replacement of the existing facility with a fixed span bridge will eliminate potential emergency vehicle access conflicts with bridge during peak travel times. Increased shoulder width and rail height serve as a safety benefit to bicyclists. The installation of broadband and associated information technologies infrastructure will provide critical information to drivers, improving safety along the US 64 corridor.
- **Resilience benefits:** The project will prepare northeastern North Carolina for automated/connected vehicles and improve hurricane evacuation times
- **Climate benefits:** Facilitating boat passage will allow for substantial reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The project also improves active transportation options; has the potential to reuse materials to serve as artificial reefs; minimizes impacts to both the Palmetto- Peartree Preserve and the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; improves wildlife habitat connectivity between the north and south areas of the roadway by providing wildlife crossing structures and directional barrier fences; and will help to eliminate wildlife/vehicle collisions and increase the permeability of the roadway for the wide diversity of wildlife in the area.

### **Hudson Yards Concrete Casing – Section 3 (HYCC-3)**

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

*Manhattan, New York*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$292,171,053 (FY22-FY25)

#### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** This funding will cover construction of the third and final section of the concrete casing intended to preserve future right-of-way for the new Hudson River Tunnel and allow for the continued redevelopment of Hudson Yards. This is a part of the larger Gateway Project and a critical step towards creating a new Hudson River Tunnel.
- **Economic benefits:** This project is part of the larger Hudson Tunnel Project, which is expected to create more than 72,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs and \$19 billion in economic activity created over the project's construction period.
- **Economic importance:** This project is a critical piece of the Gateway Program, which will modernize this most heavily used part of the Northeast Corridor. This portion of the Northeast Corridor between New Jersey and New York City carries over 200,000 daily Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT passenger trips. The project will also reduce commuter and intercity rail delays caused by unanticipated events or routine maintenance and increase on-time performance.
- **Safety benefits:** The rehabilitated tunnel would have egress walkways for emergency access to and from the tunnel including cross passages so that in an emergency, passengers could exit the train using the walkway to reach the emergency access points. Communications, security and fire safety components will be replaced and upgraded to a modern standard.
- **Resilience benefits:** Superstorm Sandy badly damaged the over century-old North River Tunnels, causing deterioration and leading to more frequent delays due to component failures within the tunnel. Once the new tunnel is built, it will allow for work on the North River Tunnel to proceed with fewer service disruptions
- **Climate benefits:** In addition to long term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across operations, the HTP provides a more resilient overall system that can withstand natural disasters, such as major storms and floods.

## **I-44 & US-75 Corridor Improvements Project**

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

*Tulsa, Oklahoma*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$85,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** This project will upgrade the I-44 & US-75 interchange and make pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements.
- **Economic benefits:** ODOT estimates that by reducing congestion and improving travel time and reliability, 6.9 million hours of excess vehicle delay will be eliminated over the life of the project. According to ODOT, by 2045, the project is expected to save 1,193 hours of delay for passenger vehicles and freight each workday. The project is also predicted to generate the equivalent of 1,468 short-term direct hires in the construction phase, including good-paying construction jobs that on average pay 12% more than the statewide average.
- **Economic importance:** I-44 is part of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) and the Oklahoma Freight Network. US-75 and I-44 are listed in Oklahoma's Statewide Freight Plan as "critical urban freight corridors." According to ODOT, recurrent congestion and poor safety make the corridor a bottleneck that experiences travel delays and unreliable travel times, which affect supply chains and reduces access to job opportunities. By reducing crashes and travel delays and improving travel time reliability, this project will eliminate a freight bottleneck and expand access to jobs.
- **Safety benefits:** The project area has a crash rate that is almost double the statewide average. According to ODOT, by replacing the 'cloverleaf' ramp design and adding other safety features like wider shoulders and median barriers, the project will reduce crashes along the corridor by an estimated 45%.
- **Resilience benefits:** The project will provide security for the adjacent low-income, minority neighborhoods that are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. The reconstruction of Skelly Drive and the new bridge structures over Mooser creek will be designed to accommodate 100-year storms, any flood storage removed by the project will be replaced, and stormwater runoff will be incorporated within Tulsa's MS4 system to mitigate flooding risks.
- **Climate benefits:** ODOT expects the project to reduce over 125,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions in the next 25 years due to reduced congestion. The project is also expected to increase local air quality by reducing nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter 2.5 in the air.

## **Roosevelt Boulevard Multimodal Project**

City of Philadelphia

*Philadelphia, PA*

**AWARD TOTAL:** \$78,000,000

### **Quick hits:**

- **The project:** The project will make improvements along approximately 12.3 miles of Roosevelt Boulevard, from North Broad Street to the Bucks County line. Improvements include traffic signal upgrades, reconfiguring intersections and roadways, constructing median barriers and pedestrian refuge islands, corridor access management improvements, and complete streets improvements for accessibility, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements. It will also create new business access and transit lanes.
- **Economic benefits:** The project will aim to help enhance the region's economic competitiveness by promoting local hiring and job creation, creating workforce opportunities for historically underrepresented groups, expanding affordable transportation option for disadvantaged communities, improving access to non-motorized travelers, and improving transportation efficiency through reduced congestion in the region.
- **Economic importance:** Many Philadelphians depend on Roosevelt Boulevard to access jobs and daily services, but face challenges in safety, accessibility, and congestion, no matter how they travel. The corridor serves ten Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) transit routes and as many as 25,000 bus riders per day on over 28 bus routes. Freight and delivery services along the Boulevard are critical for both the corridor's and region's economic well-being.
- **Safety benefits:** Today, Roosevelt Boulevard has one of the highest rates of crashes in Philadelphia, accounting for 14 percent of all crash-related fatalities in the city, according to the application. The project will improve transportation safety for all modes of travel along the Boulevard with the goal of reducing the number of traffic fatalities to zero. According to the project sponsor, improvements to pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure are expected to deliver a crash risk reduction of 31%.
- **Resilience benefits:** The project will improve sustainable transportation infrastructure for walking, transit riders, and cycling, allowing residents and commuters to make choices minimizing environmental impacts. The improved corridor will provide benefits from reduced air pollution, benefiting disadvantaged communities near the project area.
- **Equity and quality of life benefits:** Proactively addressing racial equity and other disparities is a fundamental premise of the project, and it will greatly improve multimodal and transit access across disadvantaged neighborhoods.