Approved in Open Session 10/20/26
Manatee County
Board of County Commissioners

October 20, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject
Authorization to Apply for a Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) Grant from U.S. DOT for Signal Hardening and Bridge Scouring, Countywide

Category
CONSENT AGENDA

Briefings
Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information
Clarke Davis, Interim Director of Public Works, ext. 7272

Action Requested
1. Authorize the submission of PROTECT grant applications; and
2. Authorize the Chairman, the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, the Director of Public Works, any of their designees, Director of Government Relations, any of their designees, and the Grant Division Manager to execute all necessary subsequent documents related to the grant submission.

Enabling/Regulating Authority
Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58) and codified at 23 U.S.C. § 176

Applicable Advisory Board
N/A

Background Discussion
Manatee County Public Works Department is submitting two projects for funding to the PROTECT grant program: one involving signal hardening and the other for bridge scouring. The former will replace span wire with mast arms, which can better withstand hurricane-force winds and thus incur less damage during such events. They are also easier to repair if damage does occur. If funded, Public Works will use the grant to implement traffic signalization hardening countermeasures on between four to seven intersections:

- 26th Street West at 9th Ave West
- 26th Street West at 38th Ave West
- 26th Street West at 53rd Ave West

• 26th Street West at 57th Ave West
• 26th Street West at 60th Ave West
• 9th Street East at 301 Boulevard
• 51st Street West at 37th Ave West
• 26th Street West at 17th Ave West
• 26th Street West at Florida Blvd

Bridge Souring—the removal of sediment (sand, gravel, etc.) from around bridge abutments and piers—is one of the main causes of bridge failure. If funded, Public Works will use a grant from PROTECT to implement bridge scour countermeasures for up to five bridges:
• Bridge 130017 - CR675 over Gilley Creek (Remaining service life = 25 years)
• Bridge 134034 - Palma Sola Blvd over Palma Sola Creek
• Bridge 134062 - CR 780 (Clay Gully Rd) over Mud Lake Slough (Remaining service life = 15 years)
• Bridge 134095 - 63rd Ave E over Bowlees Creek (Remaining service life = 40 years)
• Bridge 134098 - River Club Blvd over Braden River (Remaining service life = 40 years)

Eligible PROTECT projects include strengthening surface transportation to be more resilient natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, heat waves, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

A Benefit Cost Analysis is required for this grant.

Attorney Review
Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records
Please send electronic copies to lauren.franklin@mymanatee.org, Stephen.siirtola@mymanatee.org.
Distributed 10/21/26, RT

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name
Staff estimates the total cost of the scour measures will be between $6M and $7M and the signals will cost between $18M and $19M. There is a 20 percent local match required for this grant, the source of which will be determined by staff.

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
One time funding