Photos, left to right: Courtesy of Valley Water; Karl Nielsen. All rights reserved.

The Accelerating Demonstration Approaches for Protecting Transportation (ADAPT) Assets Act

From the San Francisco Bay Area to the Gulf Coast, natural disasters — flooding, wildfires, hurricanes and rising sea levels — put critical infrastructure, local economies and millions of lives at risk. The cost to protect that infrastructure is enormous; MTC estimates nearly $100 billion is needed just to protect the Bay Area's shoreline from flooding through 2050. Many regions have similarly identified needs, but projects are stalled because funding is siloed and there is no clear, replicable blueprint for delivering these projects at scale.

The ADAPT Assets Act (H.R. 8653), sponsored by Congressman John Garamendi and Congressman Mike Thompson, provides the funding and delivery framework needed to move large-scale resilience projects from planning to completion. The program authorizes $10 billion to fund up to 10 nationally or regionally significant, large-scale (>$500 million) resilience demonstration projects that reduce the risk of catastrophic damage, prolonged closures, and repeated emergency repairs to critical surface transportation assets. The program is structured to:

1. **Target complex projects that involve common delivery barriers** — including multi-owner or multi-agency governance structures, integration of nature-based solutions, and investments beyond the transportation right-of-way — to tackle challenges and identify best practices that can be applied to future projects nationwide.

Bay Area Assets at Risk of Sea Level Rise Flooding

- **75,000** households
- **200,000** jobs
- **15,000** businesses
- **$151 billion** roadways
- **$85 billion** parcels

Source: 2023 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Funding and Investment Framework (MTC, ABAG, BCDC)

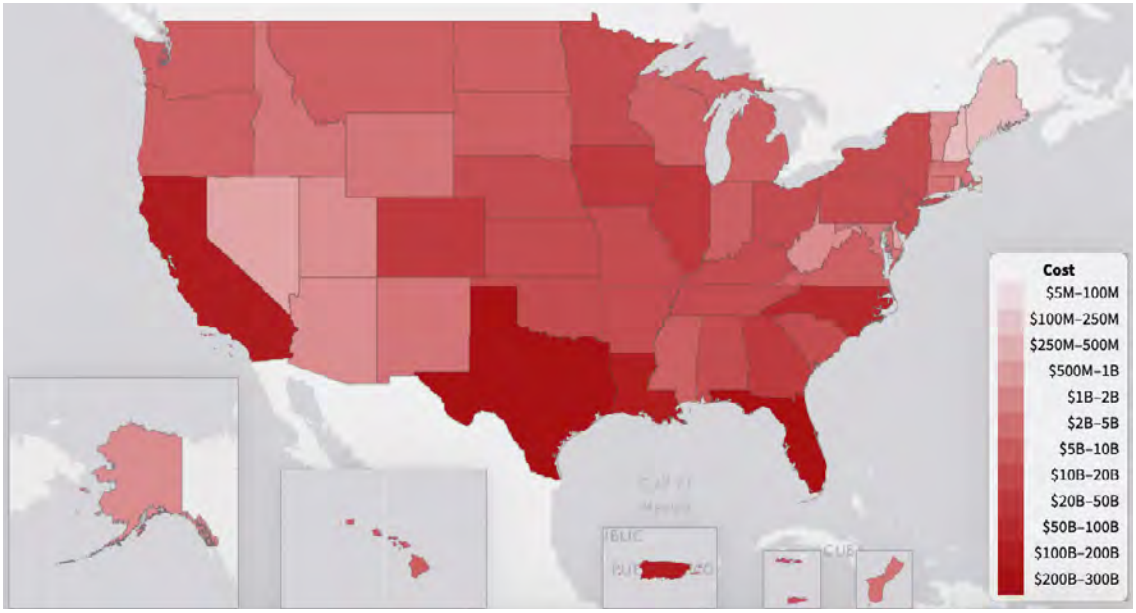
2. **Break down federal silos by aligning funding and project delivery** across the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, supporting a more efficient deployment of resources.

3. **Deliver multi-benefit, system-level outcomes** by protecting transportation assets while enhancing resilience for surrounding communities, natural habitat, and other critical infrastructure; and improving mobility, goods movement and emergency response.

4. **Establish a replicable model for delivering large-scale resilience projects** that can be applied across regions to accelerate delivery and reduce costs.

Disaster Recovery Imposes Major Costs Across U.S.

Cumulative costs of climate/weather events with losses exceeding $1 billion (CPI adjusted) between 2014-2024.



Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2025). https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/.

Preliminary cost estimates for just one regional adaptation priority — elevating the 21-mile State Route 37 corridor — are at least of $10 billion. Photo: Karl Nielsen.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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