

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 8/18/2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation, requesting retroactive approval to apply for and accept funding, if awarded, through the 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Demonstration Activities Discretionary Grant Program

File Type: Action Item

BACKGROUND

In July 2022, the County Board approved File No. 22-838, authorizing the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to apply for and accept funding under the 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). In September 2022, Milwaukee County received an \$800,000 SS4A grant to develop a countywide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to improve multimodal safety and reduce reckless driving on all Milwaukee County roadways and Action Plans for each of our 19 municipalities. This grant required a 20% local match of \$200,000 to provide a total \$1,000,000 towards Milwaukee County's Action Plan development and our 19 municipalities' Action Plans. The public engagement piece of the overall Complete Communities Transportation Planning project (MCDOT's Safe Streets Roadshow) and its accompanying data analysis to generate a current evaluation of street safety across the county has been happening throughout this summer. The above described countywide and municipal Comprehensive Safety Action Plan development will begin in early 2024.

Due to an excess of leftover funding in the SS4A pool, the USDOT announced another opportunity earlier this year to apply for additional SS4A funding for Demonstration Activities—short-term street safety and traffic calming projects that utilize temporary materials and equipment to test certain strategies to help reduce traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes. As MCDOT Director's Office staff was already working with all 19 municipalities to improve street safety across the county, we inquired with each municipality to see if they wanted to join Milwaukee County on an application for this additional source of grant funding. While many municipalities were interested, some did not have the ability or time to obtain local approval to join the effort—however, five were able to join the application with Milwaukee County as the lead applicant and Greendale, Shorewood, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis as sub-applicants.

As MCDOT and the municipalities met together multiple times, we discussed their proposed Demonstration Activities and proposed locations across each municipality, we assessed the type and costs of temporary equipment and materials needed while strategizing how best to write the application so it would have the best chance to be successful. On July 10th, 2023, Milwaukee County submitted an application for \$274,898, the total amount needed to fully fund each of the five municipalities' proposed Demonstration Activities.

It should be noted that each municipality will be responsible for covering the 20% local match of their portion of the \$274,898, if awarded. Milwaukee County will not be funding any portion of these Demonstration Activities, but the collaboration on the application itself between Milwaukee County and five of its municipalities will be looked upon favorably by USDOT. Also, the City of Milwaukee submitted its own multi-million-dollar 2023 SS4A Demonstration Activities grant application and MCDOT voiced its official support. In turn, the City of Milwaukee provided its official support for our application at the same time. MCDOT and the City of Milwaukee both wrote language in our respective grant applications to describe how the applications are not competitive but rather complementary as each municipality is at a different place in implementing street safety strategies than where the City of Milwaukee is current at.

MCDOT is seeking retroactive approval to apply for and accept funding, if awarded, in the 2023 SS4A Discretionary Grant Program to further study street safety initiatives across the county, to implement short-term activities that will lead to permanent infrastructure solutions and to continue building momentum towards a countywide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. These Demonstration Activities would calm traffic and provide increased safety for pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and all roadway users. A bonus of this funding, if awarded, is that the temporary equipment can be used again and again in future municipal street safety initiatives.

If awarded, MCDOT will be the pass-through for each municipality to receive their share of the funding to purchase their list of temporary equipment and materials. From there, each Demonstration Activity will have a schedule including public awareness, setup, activation and data gathering, tear down and analysis. The Demonstration Activities will take place at different times between Spring 2024 and Fall 2024.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends approval of this Action Item.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no direct fiscal effect to Milwaukee County. The total cost of this project is \$274,898, \$219,918 of which (80%) would be the grant award from the USDOT and \$54,980 of which (20%) is the combined local match amount provided by each local municipality (Greendale, Shorewood, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis) proportionate to their total amount of requested funds.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, MCDOT Director's Office

APPROVED BY:

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution/Ordinance
Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk