

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-office Communication

**DATE:** 2/13/2026

**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** From the Director, Department of Transportation, providing an Informational Report regarding the Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project Update and Municipal Safety Action Plans.

**FILE TYPE:** Informational Report

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**BACKGROUND**

In January 2022, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) began the process of submitting multiple state and federal grant applications to help fund the County's first-ever countywide safe streets planning initiative, entitled the [Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project](#). The Committee on Transportation and Transit first received an update on this project in March 2022. (File No. 22-374). Milwaukee County received a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for \$235,000 (\$188,000 state funds + \$47,000 local match) from the State of Wisconsin to fund Phase One of the project, our public engagement campaign and countywide crash data analysis. Later that year, Milwaukee County received \$1,000,000 (\$800,000 federal funds + \$200,000 local match) as part of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to fund the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan development process for both Milwaukee County (Phase Two) and all participating municipalities (Phase Three).

At the September 2023 Committee on Transportation and Transit meeting, MCDOT provided an update on the public engagement process, the Safe Streets Roadshow, that occurred throughout Summer 2023 (File No. 23-826) through which at least one public meeting took place in each of our county's 19 municipalities. At the January 2024 committee meeting, MCDOT provided findings from both the Safe Streets Roadshow and the crash data analysis (File No. 24-124). This was followed by the March 2024 committee meeting that highlighted the publication of this project's [Transportation Safety Assessment Report](#) (File No. 24-298). Also in March 2024, in collaboration with Medical College of Wisconsin and UW-Milwaukee, the [Milwaukee County Motor Vehicle Collision Dashboard](#) was released.

In July 2024 (File No. 24-624), MCDOT recommended adopting a commitment to Vision Zero by 2037 for Milwaukee County and fatal and serious injury crash percentage reduction goals every three years between 2025-2037. Furthermore, on December 4<sup>th</sup>,

2024, MCDOT provided an informational update (File No. 24-914) on a draft of Milwaukee County's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (MCCSAP) which was open for comments from steering committees, County Supervisors and state and municipal partners. The 300+ comments received helped shape the final version of the adopted countywide Action Plan (File No. 25-114). Notably, the MCCSAP gained official certification from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in May 2025. The entire process described above led to the development of the MCCSAP which completed Phase Two of the project.

MCDOT is pleased to report that Phase Three is now complete as all 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County have worked with the project team to generate individual Municipal Safety Action Plans (MSAP). All 19 MSAPS are now posted on the Complete Communities website and available for municipal staff and all Milwaukee County residents and roadway users to read.

This historic achievement now brings all municipalities and the county in alignment on the basic tenants of the Safe System Approach and Vision Zero. As part of this MSAP development process, three additional municipalities officially declared a commitment to achieving Vision Zero by 2037, Wauwatosa, West Allis and Greenfield, joining the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. Two other municipalities, Greendale and Oak Creek, officially resolved to support Milwaukee County's Vision Zero commitment goal.

Below is a list of the main components of the Municipal Safety Action Plans:

- 1) Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting
- 2) Vision Zero and Safe System Approach
- 3) Safety Analysis
- 4) Community Engagement
- 5) Priority Action Steps
  - a. Project Locations
  - b. Demonstration Activities
  - c. Other Recommendations
  - d. Funding Solutions
- 6) Appendix

While the Municipal Safety Action Plans were not a requirement by USDOT to become eligible to apply for the next round of SS4A Implementation funding, doing so has made Milwaukee County's future SS4A grant applications stronger. The collaborative working relationship MCDOT has developed throughout this process has and will continue to bear fruit toward securing more federal funding to make roadways safer for all users.

This was [recently demonstrated](#) on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, when County Executive David Crowley announced that Milwaukee County was awarded \$24,919,360 in federal funding through the 2025 SS4A grant program to implement the construction of 65 different traffic safety projects and conduct two different planning studies. Five different municipalities (Brown Deer, Glendale, City of Milwaukee, Shorewood and West Allis) joined that successful grant application and will contribute a significant majority of the local match amount.

This work is guided by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe System Approach, a holistic and comprehensive approach that provides a framework to make roadways safer for all users. As a result of these efforts, the number of communities in Milwaukee County who have committed to Vision Zero is growing. Milwaukee County, as evidenced by the latest SS4A grant award, has positioned itself to continue to invest in roadway safety by successfully winning more than \$26 million total in state and federal grants, administering those grants and managing those projects from beginning to end.

A total of \$32,659,098 will be invested in safe streets across Milwaukee County between 2022 and 2031 with only an estimated \$1,327,000 in outlay from the County itself, equating to 4% of that total investment. Later this year, MCDOT plans on submitting for a 2026 SS4A Implementation grant, collaborating with municipalities willing to join this effort.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered.
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.
- 3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

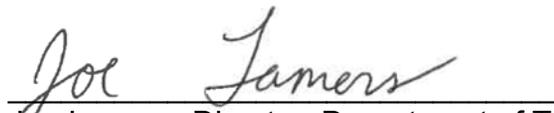
### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation  
John Rodgers, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation  
Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, Department of Transportation

### **PREPARED BY:**

Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, Department of Transportation

### **APPROVED BY:**



Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

PowerPoint

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