

County of Milwaukee Interoffice Communication

DATE: 6/24/2022
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for and Accept Funding Under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program for “Milwaukee County Complete Communities: Addressing Multimodal Safety in All 19 County Municipalities” Project
FILE TYPE: Action Report

REQUEST

Authorization to apply for and accept funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program.

POLICY

Per section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the appropriate county board standing committee prior to applying for discretionary federal or state grants that require a local match.

BACKGROUND

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced on May 16, 2022, the opportunity to apply for funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program as part of Section 24112 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for Fiscal Year 2022. The purpose of SS4A grants is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through safety action plan development and implementation focused on all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance, micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. The program provides funding to develop the tools to help strengthen a community’s approach to roadway safety and save lives and is designed to meet the needs of diverse local, Tribal and regional communities that differ dramatically in size, location and experience administering Federal funding.

Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is seeking approval from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to apply for the Action Plan Grant portion of this opportunity and accept the funding, if awarded. Action Plan Grants are used to develop, complete or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribe or region. The primary deliverable for an Action Plan Grant is a publicly available Action Plan which includes the following: Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting, Planning Structure, Safety Analysis, Engagement and Collaboration, Equity Considerations, Policy and Process Changes, Strategy and Project Selections and Progress and Transparency. With assistance from a consultant, MCDOT intends to create an Action Plan from which all 19 of Milwaukee County’s municipalities can draw on to

determine their own community's most critical roadway safety needs to achieve zero deaths on Milwaukee County roadways, reduce incidents of reckless driving and encourage a greater amount of multimodal travel. Once the Action Plan is delivered and municipalities begin to implement recommendations that apply to their own street network, key performance indicators such as reductions in automobile crashes countywide and street segments removed from the City of Milwaukee's Pedestrian High Injury Network will indicate to us the level of success the Action Plan has. Milwaukee County—the most racially and ethnically diverse county in the state of Wisconsin—is a unique locality with 19 different municipalities of varying socio-economic characteristics and transportation needs. As such, MCDOT will play a vital part spearheading this effort to ensure that each municipality takes part in this historic investment in roadway safety throughout our community.

Grant awards require a minimum 20% local match and applications are due September 15, 2022. All Fiscal Year 2022 SS4A funds must be expended within five years after the grant agreement is executed and DOT obligates the funds.

MCDOT presently intends to request the maximum \$1,000,000. If approval to apply for and accept funding is granted, and if an award is received, \$500,000 of the funding will be used to help fund the hiring of a consultant who will help lead the significant amount of outreach needed to properly engage with each of our county's 19 municipalities' residents, stakeholders, neighborhood groups and elected officials. The consultant will also help lead efforts to generate Milwaukee County Department of Transportation's Action Plan itself. The other \$500,000 of the funding would go towards helping each municipality fund their own Safety Action Plan. With 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County, that will equate to approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 per municipality, with each municipality contributing \$5,000 of their own funding and MCDOT covering the remaining cost of generating each municipality's Action Plan, up to \$25,000.

Additionally, if approval to apply for and accept funding is granted, and if an award is received, the funding will be used in a future capital budget request or through fund transfer depending on the specific needs of MCDOT at that time.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities.

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation recommends authorization to apply for and accept funding through the USDOT's SS4A Discretionary Grant Program for \$1,000,000 for the development of a Safety Action Plan for Milwaukee County's 19 county municipalities which will include ideas, challenges and recommendations to achieve zero deaths on our roadways, reduce reckless driving and encourage multimodal travel.

FISCAL EFFECT

The direct fiscal impact is dependent on the grant amounts (if any) that are ultimately awarded. In the event of a full award for MCDOT, the local share requested in the applicable county capital budget would be \$200,000.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

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Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Donna Brown-Martin

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation