

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 5/15/2025

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 authorization to apply for and accept Implementation funding, if awarded, through the 2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program.

FILE TYPE: Action Item

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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 our first-ever countywide safe streets planning initiative, entitled the [Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project](#). The Committee on Transportation and Transit first received an update 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.

Also in 2022, 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 (CSAP) development process for both Milwaukee County and all participating municipalities.

At subsequent Transportation and Transit Committee meetings in 2023 through 2025, we provided Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project updates (File No. 23-826, File No. 24-124, File No. 24-298, File No. 24-624, File No. 24-914 and File No. 25-114) which has led us to a new phase—applying for additional funding to design, engineer and construct some of the safe streets infrastructure changes recommended in our CSAP.

MCDOT Director's Office is requesting authorization to apply for and accept (if awarded) federal SS4A Implementation funding to redesign and enhance some of our county's most hazardous intersections and roadway segments and construct various safe streets countermeasures on our [Corridors of Concern](#), such as the ones recommended in our [Milwaukee County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan](#).

The [2025 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) was issued on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. With a deadline of June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to apply for implementation funding, we are making this

request to meet the federal deadline. MCDOT plans to submit a total project grant application request between \$25 million to \$31.25 million and collaborate with municipalities who have jurisdiction over the segments of roadway and intersections on which we are planning safety improvements. For each safety project opportunity, we will be asking the municipality or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to fund the local match of 20%. If it is a County Trunk Highway, the local match will be processed through a future year capital budget request.

If the County is awarded this grant and prior to the execution of any agreement, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will be informed of all the identified projects and associated costs. The earliest any of these projects would commence will be in 2027.

Since the list of safety project opportunities' locations is still being refined, we do want to communicate that projects in as many Milwaukee County supervisory districts as possible will be included in the application. Also included would be as many municipalities that are willing to support the recommended projects and provide the local match amount.

This is a landmark opportunity to partner and collaborate with multiple Milwaukee County municipalities and the State of Wisconsin to leverage funds to redesign our most hazardous intersections and roadway segments. For context, there is \$580 million available in SS4A Implementation funding in 2025 for between 40 and 70 projects across the United States. This remains a highly competitive and discretionary program. As a county that is now committed to achieving Vision Zero by the year 2037, we continue to maximize every opportunity to obtain as much federal funding as possible to improve roadway safety for all users.

Eliminating and preventing fatal and serious injury crashes can have a generational impact on our society. Lives that are saved and kept safe have an immeasurable positive impact, but even merely the cost savings of these catastrophic crashes have a net value in the billions over the next twenty years for Milwaukee County and its residents.

In this SS4A Implementation application, we also plan to include funding towards safe streets demonstration activities for municipalities that want to purchase temporary traffic control equipment to pilot certain types of safe streets treatments to study their impact towards reducing reckless driving and improving multimodal safety. This practice has already proven successful this year as Greendale, Shorewood, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis have collaborated with Milwaukee County on a prior SS4A grant in which we earned nearly \$220,000 in federal funding towards their demonstration activities expenses.

To achieve Vision Zero by 2037, Milwaukee County will need to address each of our Corridors of Concern and make them safer—an application and an award from the 2025

SS4A Implementation grant program would be a tremendous next step towards achieving our vision.

**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

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no fiscal effect.

**TERMS (If applicable)**

N/A

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Donna Brown-Martin, 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:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Donna Brown-Martin", is written over a horizontal line.

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution  
Fiscal Note

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