

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 2/14/2024

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

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

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation providing an Information Report regarding an update on Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project.

File Type: Informational Report

BACKGROUND

Related File No's:	23-374, 23-826, 24-124
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	Not applicable
Previous Action Date(s):	Not applicable

In January 2022, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) submitted a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to address reckless driving and its impact on pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders in Milwaukee County. On July 26, 2022, the County was awarded \$235,000, 80% of which (\$188,000) is composed of federal funding, meaning \$47,000 is composed of local match. In the March 2022 meeting, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved an application for and acceptance of this funding (File No. 22-374).

At the September 2023 Committee on Transportation and Transit meeting, we provided an update on the public engagement process, the Safe Streets Roadshow that had occurred throughout Summer 2023 (File No. 23-826). At the January 2024 meeting, we provided findings from both our Safe Streets Roadshow and the crash data analysis performed by our consultants (File No. 24-124). We are now excited to deliver our Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project's first report, the "Transportation Safety Assessment Report".

Before we can generate a plan of action to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Milwaukee County roadways and reduce reckless driving, we first needed to understand and assess what is happening on our roadways, and when and where it is happening, along with potential contributing factors, both from a data analytical lens but also from a public observational and testimonial perspective. To those ends, the "Transportation Safety Assessment Report" contains the following sections:

- 1) Why We're Here – a detailed countywide crash data analysis including trends, bicyclist and pedestrian impacts, crash inequities by age group, sex and race and also breakdowns of crash rates by area type, street characteristics and Crash Risk Score.
- 2) What We've Heard – a thorough recap of our Safe Streets Roadshow public engagement meetings including key findings and opportunities, top Corridors of Concern for residents, observed behaviors and locations, community-supported infrastructure interventions, personal travel habits and a Community Assessment which is composed of brief recaps of public feedback by municipality and their respective crash rates.
- 3) What We Can Do – descriptions of the Safe System Approach and its objectives, explanations of Complete Communities improvements from major to quick build to low-cost and sections on increasing multimodal activity and collaboration between local governments to build trust.
- 4) What's Next – descriptions of the upcoming actions that will take place as part of the Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project, including our Countywide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan development.

This report has been commented on by both our Public Advisory Committee, a group of representatives from 12 community-based organizations throughout Milwaukee County, and our Safety Working Group, a collection of representatives across 33 different local governmental agencies and firms with specific experience in transportation engineering, public health, public works, enforcement and education.

The report will be made public on or around March 1st, 2024, through our project website, <http://county.milwaukee.gov/CompleteCommunities>, along with a press release and various forms of communication with our stakeholders, elected officials and the public. This will signal the end of Phase One.

Phase Two of this project is already underway in 2024 with the development of a countywide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan followed by Action Plans for each participating municipality. The engagement and analysis findings from Phase One have laid the groundwork for the Action Plans in Phase Two.

As this is just the first step of many to ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries, reduce reckless driving and increase multimodal safety for all roadway users throughout Milwaukee County, we look forward to providing more updates to the County Board of Supervisors throughout the duration of the project.

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

This report is for informational purposes only unless otherwise directed.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal effect.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, 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 that reads "Donna Brown-Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Transportation Safety Assessment

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