

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

Date: 4/22/2026

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

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: From the Director, Department of Transportation, requesting authorization to apply for and accept Implementation funding, if awarded, through the 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program.

File Type: Action Item

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 Milwaukee County's first-ever safe streets planning initiative, entitled the [Complete Communities Transportation Planning Project](#). The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors 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, a 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 (CSAP) development process for both Milwaukee County and all participating municipalities.

Between 2023 through 2026, MCDOT 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, File No. 25-114, File 25-384 and File 26-318) that led to another grant opportunity—funding to design, engineer and construct some of the safe streets infrastructure changes recommended in the CSAP and [Municipal Safety Action Plans](#).

MCDOT is now requesting to apply for and accept (if awarded) federal SS4A Implementation funding to redesign and enhance some of our county's and municipalities' 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 [2026 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) was issued on March 27th, 2026 with a deadline of May 26th, 2026, to apply for Implementation funding. MCDOT plans to submit a total project grant application request between \$25 million to \$31.25 million and attempt to partner with municipalities who have jurisdiction over the segments of roadway and intersections on which safety improvements are planned. For each safety project opportunity, the municipality will fund the local match of 20%. If the project is for a County Trunk Highway, MCDOT will submit the local match request in an appropriate year's Capital Budget request.

After a [successful 2025 SS4A Implementation grant application](#) in which Milwaukee County was awarded \$24,919,360 in federal funding, the 2026 SS4A grant application is potentially the final opportunity in this grant program's life cycle to collaborate with multiple Milwaukee County municipalities on obtaining funding to redesign the most hazardous intersections and roadway segments. As a county that is committed to achieving Vision Zero by the year 2037, MCDOT will maximize every opportunity to obtain as much federal funding as possible to improve roadway safety for all users.

As the list of safety project opportunities' locations is still being refined, MCDOT will look to ensure that projects in as many Milwaukee County supervisory districts as possible will be included in the application, along with as many municipalities that are willing to support the recommended projects and provide the local match amount.

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:

Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

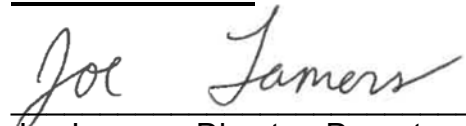
John Rodgers, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Jeff Sponcia, Transportation Program Planning Manager, Department of Transportation

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Lamers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joe Lamers, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Fiscal Note

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