

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: 12/30/2022

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Informational Update on 2022 Complete Communities TAP Project

FILE TYPE: Informational Report

REQUEST

This report is an update to Report #22-374 regarding Milwaukee County's Complete Communities Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) discretionary grant award and its subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) process and project timeline.

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 Transportation Alternatives Program is a legislative program that was authorized in Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (or "FAST Act"), the federal transportation act that was signed into law on December 4, 2015. With certain exceptions, projects that meet eligibility criteria for the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements, and/or the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program are eligible projects.

For the 2022-2023 TAP application cycle, Milwaukee County, through the Department of Transportation (MCDOT), submitted a 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 \$225,000, 80% of which (\$180,000) is composed of federal funding, meaning \$45,000 will be composed of local match. All TAP projects require local sponsors to pay 20% of approved project costs. TAP projects are capped and may not be substituted for another project. TAP projects must commence within four years of the award date.

In Fall 2022, MCDOT carried out a brief in-person and online survey during the Milwaukee County Budget Town Hall series of public meetings. The short series of six questions centered around transportation safety concerns of residents and transit usage in their weekly travel routines. We received a total of 648 responses, in which 45% expressed reckless driving as their biggest concern regarding the streets where they live. An additional 23% of people expressed the streets they live by are too dangerous to cross as a pedestrian. Another question saw 53% of respondents choose either

protected bike lanes or more speed bumps as ideas to make our streets safer. A total of 424 responses also included written commentary about which streets and intersections they feel the most unsafe travelling through, especially while walking, riding a bike or taking transit. Many of those responses also advocated for additional and/or dedicated funding to be directed to Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)'s operations and transit infrastructure.

This initial set of survey data will be combined with the various public outreach and engagement efforts along with local, regional and national transportation datasets and trends that the project consultant will obtain, analyze and evaluate. The process for selecting that consultant is set to be complete by February 2023. Once contracted, the consultant and MCDOT will plan to schedule its first public meeting for this project in March to set the tone for the project across Milwaukee County.

During the first 18 months of the cycle, the project team will coordinate directly with municipal governments throughout Milwaukee County and actively engage residents and community stakeholders, especially those who are most impacted by reckless driving. During the second 18 months, the team will develop a comprehensive county-wide transportation safety plan and street safety design concepts for each municipality to consider.

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 this report be received and placed on file.

FISCAL EFFECT

This resolution would have no direct net county fiscal impact.

TERMS (If applicable)

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

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