



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 4, 2024

Re: Authorizing the City Manager to pursue a grant application to the federal FY2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program for partial costs associated with Vision Zero-related projects and activities.

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) FY2024 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant funding. The funding would be used for various Vision Zero-related projects and programs throughout the City. Announcement of the grant awards is estimated to be later in 2024 and if successful, staff will return to Council to accept and appropriate grant funds.

Discussion

In late 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also referred to as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" authorized and appropriated \$5 billion to be awarded by the US Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. The program was allocated \$1 billion a year (up to five years) to award through a competitive process. The SS4A program is used to fund local initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The program supports the US Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and its goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on U.S. roadways. This philosophy is in line with the City's Vision Zero resolution and resulting work over the last several years and funding from this grant would help the City move numerous Vision Zero projects and initiatives forward.

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 and micromobility users, and commercial vehicle operators. The City has been awarded funding for supplemental planning projects in both of the last two grant cycles. If Council approves the current request, staff plans to submit an implementation application again.

This year's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected to be released sometime in February 2024, with the project awards to be announced in late 2024 or early 2025. All FY2024 SS4A funds must be expended within five years after the grant agreement is executed and the US Dept of Transportation obligates the funds. The FY2024 grant awards are anticipated to require the same 80-20 match (with the City providing the 20% match) as previous grant periods.



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As an early adopter of a Vision Zero policy, Columbia has had the opportunity to build a good foundation for a Safe Systems approach to traffic safety. The amount of our first two SS4A awards is indicative of our past work being in line with best practices at a nationwide level. Our Vision Zero work has been multifaceted and makes us well-positioned for an implementation activity grant opportunity in FY2024. Additional funding from the SS4A program will help us move toward safer streets for all of Columbia's transportation users.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: To be determined depending on the outcome of the grant application.
Long-Term Impact: Unknown. Long term maintenance of some items unknown. Some items may lead to reduced or additional maintenance costs.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Tertiary Impact: Inclusive Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
05/15/2023	R77-23: Authorizing the City Manager to pursue a grant application to the federal FY2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program for partial costs associated with Vision Zero-related projects and activities.
08/01/2022	R112-22: Authorizing application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to fund projects and activities associated with the Vision Zero Program.
12/19/2016	PR178-16: Adopting a "Vision Zero" Policy; setting a goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries in Columbia by 2030.

Suggested Council Action

Adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for the FY2024 Safe Streets for All grant funding to support and further the City's Vision Zero work.