



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2401, Agenda Item #: 86.

7/28/2022

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application for an Implementation Grant with the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant program, administered by the United States Department of Transportation to address road safety.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The City of Austin adopted a Vision Zero policy goal in 2015 and reaffirmed its support of achieving zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries through its recent Strategic Direction 2023 and Austin Strategic Mobility Plan. Austin has made significant progress through targeted initiatives based on a best-in-class, data-informed program utilizing the funding supported by the community through multiple bond programs to drive street design changes towards safer streets. Analysis of work performed at specific locations to date reflects positive early results; however, safety needs far exceed available capital funds at this time.

The SS4A discretionary grant program consists of two types of grants: Action Plan Grants and Implementation Grants. The latter will fund projects and strategies identified in Austin's action plan to address roadway safety. The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) expects to award hundreds of Action Plan Grants and no more than one hundred Implementation Grants. The discretionary program will provide up to \$1 billion in total grants per year over the next 5 years, with individual implementation grants capped at \$30 million.

Funds for the FY 2022 SS4A discretionary grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.

With a primary focus on locations on Austin's High-Injury Network and in the U.S. DOT's defined "Historically Disadvantaged Communities," the Implementation Grant funds will: further promote safety; employ low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wide geographic area; ensure equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities; incorporate evidence-based projects and strategies; and align projects with additional priorities such as equity, climate, sustainability, quality job creation, and economic strength and global competitiveness.

Per the resolution under consideration for this item, City Council authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application for an Implementation Grant with the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

A city funding match (minimum 20%) is available from the 2020 bond.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility, Safety