

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: June 26, 2023

CAO File No. 0220-06117-0000

Council File No. None

Council District: All

To: The City Council

From: *for* Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Subject: **AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the General Manager of the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), or designee, to prepare a grant application for the proposal outlined in the Attachment 1; and,
2. Instruct the General Manager of the BOE, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grant, to request authority to accept the grant award, and to identify match and front funding.

SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), a competitive grant program, for the development of a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan) that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. The goal of the program is to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, micro-mobility users (e.g., scooters), and commercial vehicle operators. Total funding of \$1,177,213,000 is available for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 under the SS4A Grant Program. The application due date is July 10, 2023.

This Office has received one project proposal from BOE – “Safety Elements of Culver Boulevard and Highland Avenue.”

Eligible Applicants

The entities are eligible for the SS4A Grant Program:

- Counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, and other special districts that are political subdivisions of a State;
- Metropolitan planning organizations; and,
- Federally recognized Tribal governments.

Grant Types

The SS4A Program provides funding for the following types of grants:

- Planning and Demonstration Grants provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety Action Plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribe, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities that inform the development of a new or existing Action Plan.
- Implementation Grants provide Federal funds to implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem. Projects and strategies can be infrastructure, behavioral, and/or operational activities. Implementation Grants may also include demonstration activities, supplemental planning, and project-level planning, design, and development. Applicants must have an eligible Action Plan to apply for Implementation Grants.

BOE's project will apply for an implementation grant.

Cost Sharing or Matching

The Federal share of a SS4A grant may not exceed 80 percent of total eligible activity costs. Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of 20 percent from non-Federal sources. BOE is proposing to apply for a \$25 million grant. This would obligate the City to a \$6.25 million match. Three million of this match would be staff costs and \$3.25 million would be a cash match, either Special Funds or General Fund over the life of the project, which is estimated to be five years.

Selection Criteria for Implementation Grant

The selection criteria (Attachment 2) for all projects funded through the SS4A Grant Program are as follows:

- Safety Impact;
- Equity, Engagement, and Collaboration;
- Effective Practices and Strategies;
- Other DOT Strategic Goals; and
- Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities.

This Office met with BOE to discuss and evaluate the grant proposal and it meets the purposes, eligibility, and all the scoring criteria and the proposed project is likely to score high. The scope is similar to the scope for LaBrea Avenue that received a grant award in 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There may be an impact on the General Fund depending on the funds available for the cash match. This grant requires \$6.25 million in non-federal funding sources matching funds. Of the \$6.25 million matching requirement, \$3 million will be covered by staff costs and the remaining \$3.25 million cash requirement would be covered by Special Funds or General Fund over the five year life of the project.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendation in this report complies with the City's Financial Policies.

MWS:JSL:06230155

ATTACHMENT 1 - PROPOSED GRANT PROJECT

Grant Administrator: U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)

Name of Grant: Safe Streets and Roads for All

NOFO Release Date: March 30, 2023

Due date: July 10, 2023

Award Date: December 2023

Award Size: For Implementation Grants, USDOT expects the minimum award will be \$2,500,000 and the maximum award will be \$25,000,000.

Performance Period: The period of performance for Implementation Grant agreements may not exceed 5 years.

| Lead Department | Project Name | Project Description | Total Project (Budget) | Total Grant Request | Planned Completion Date |
|-----------------------------|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Bureau of Engineering (BOE) | Safety Elements of Culver Boulevard and Highland Avenue | <p>This project will implement several Vision Zero Safety Improvements such as striping, signage, traffic signal improvements, refuge islands, pedestrian safety counter-measures, ADA curb ramp improvements, sidewalk repair, and green Infrastructure - new trees and tree wells along Culver Boulevard from Centinela Avenue to Slauson Avenue and Highland Avenue from Santa Monica Boulevard to Franklin avenue.</p> <p>This project is located along the City's High Injury Network. The 20 percent match funding requirement for this grant is \$6.25 million.</p> | \$ 31,250,000 | \$ 25,000,000 | December 2029 |

**ATTACHMENT 2
SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL - SELECTION CRITERIA**

| Selection Criteria | Name of Project |
|--|--|
| | Safety Elements of Culver Boulevard and Highland Avenue |
| Safety Impact | This project will implement several Vision Zero Safety Improvements such as striping, signage, traffic signal improvements, refuge islands, pedestrian safety counter-measures, ADA curb ramp improvements, sidewalk repair, and green Infrastructure - new trees and tree wells along Culver Boulevard from Centinela Avenue to Slauson Avenue and Highland Avenue from Santa Monica Boulevard to Franklin Avenue. The identified roads are within the City's High Injury Network. |
| Equity, Engagement, and Collaboration | This project will coordinate with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Sanitation and Bureau of Street Lighting. Using the Los Angeles Controller's Social Equity Map, the Culver Blvd. (equity score: 5.9) borders three different Census Tracts (equity scores: 6.5, 6.0 and 5.2) while Highland Ave. (equity score: 6.7) also borders three different Census Tracts (equity scores: 6.3, 7.4, 6.4). These locations are within the low socioeconomic score communities. This project will help these disadvantaged communities, and also help to promote sustainability through improved conditions to the environment for pedestrians and cyclists. |
| Effective Practices and Strategies | This project meets the Grants requirements of safety, equity, effective practices, climate change and sustainability. It does so through the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's Vision Zero Program for safety improvements. The project is located in a region that has been historically disadvantaged and presents a need for these improvements, by implementing the City's Vision Zero initiative, Complete street practices, and through the implementation of new trees & replacement of trees where needed |
| Other DOT Strategic Goals | The goal is to promote transportation safety and at the same time helping environmental sustainability through the implementation of new green infrastructure such as new trees and tree wells. It will also promote alternative modes of transportation along the High Injury Network corridors by bikeway striping, pedestrian enhancements, and sidewalk repair at existing transit stops. |
| Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities: - Project Readiness - Additional Considerations: underserved communities, rural area, priority community, geographic diversity and Federal funding requests under \$10 million. | This project is shovel ready and coordination with several City departments is going. This project serves the underserved communities and communities located within the City's High Injury Network. |