



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – April 3, 2024 Agenda Item 2

Voting Session

Resolution supporting the submission of the City's application to the US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant opportunity.

Recommended Council Action

Authorize submission of Planning and Demonstration grant application and authorize City Manager to sign and execute grant documents and take any other actions necessary to carry out intent of resolution.

Context with Key Issues

The US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All program supports 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. The program awards funding for the development of comprehensive safety action plans, demonstration activities to inform the development of an action plan, and implementation of projects and strategies identified in an action plan. (Implementation funding requires that an action plan is already in place.)

The City is at a literal crossroads of state highways to the northeast, and another three state highways run through the City. While our vehicular fatality numbers are very small, pedestrian, cyclist, and driver/passenger safety remain a concern. A majority of our vehicular crashes resulting in injury occur along or near these state highways. The development of a Safety Action Plan will help us tell a full story of what happens on our roads, both from a careful study of data and conditions, and through the voices of our residents. As part of this project, the City will implement demonstration projects including a mid-block crosswalk on a section of East West Highway (410) and the hardening of left turns at select intersections on New Hampshire Avenue (650), sites known for a large number of crashes within city limits. The outcomes of these demonstrations will inform the development of the overall plan.

The development of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan is required to apply for implementation funding in future years of the SS4A program.

Council Priorities

Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

The short-term demonstration projects will be temporary in design, executed in paint and moveable barriers on roadway surfaces. The eventual outcome of the Safety Action Plan, once recommended projects and strategies are implemented, will be streets that are safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Many of the anticipated changes would occur near bus stops and transit hubs, making access to public transportation more welcoming. These pedestrian-friendly improvements to City roadways will likely correspond to an eventual decrease in vehicular traffic and reduced emissions.

Fiscal Considerations

The total project budget is \$275,000 including the grant request of \$220,000. The SS4A grant requires 20% in matching funds (\$55,000), which we anticipate would come from a combination of in-kind support and CIP funds.

Racial Equity Considerations

Community outreach will be central to the development of the Safety Action Plan and will include events in each Ward, as well as pop ups at community events, in order to invite contributions from all residents.

Attachments and Links

[Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program](#)

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2024-

**AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF
SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, The Takoma Park City Council recognizes the significant need to improve transportation planning, design, and implementation to create a safer, more environmentally sustainable, and more racially and economically equitable community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle occupants; and

WHEREAS, The City has developed a proposal for the creation of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan aimed at preventing roadway fatalities and serious injuries within the City, including the execution of two demonstration projects to inform the plan development (\$275,000); and

WHEREAS, The US Department of Transportation, through its SS4A grant program 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, may provide 80% of the financing for the Project.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of Takoma Park supports the financing of the Project and endorses the submission of the City of Takoma Park’s FY24 SS4A Planning and Demonstration application, and the request for financial assistance in the amount of \$220,000 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute documents as “Legal Entity Official (LEO)” and take any action necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk