

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: July 31, 2024

CAO File No. 0220-06231-0000
Council File No. None
Council District: All

To: The City Council

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

Reference: Request from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation dated July 23, 2024

Subject: **AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) FY 2024 GRANT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), or designee, to partner with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to prepare and submit grant applications for the proposals outlined in the Attachment 1; and,
2. Instruct the General Manager of LADOT, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and confirm any additional required match and/or front funding.

SUMMARY

The Safe Streets For All (SS4A) FY 2024 Grant program, overseen by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), is a competitive initiative designed to allocate funds 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. Funding availability is up to \$1,261,494,000 for FY 2024 grants under the SS4A program. Of the funding made available, up to \$780 million is available to implement projects and strategies. The remainder, \$461,494,000, must be awarded for developing Action Plans; conducting supplemental planning to update existing Action Plans; or conducting demonstration activities to inform the development of, or updates to, Action Plans.

Eligible entities include the following:

- Metropolitan planning organizations;
- Political subdivisions of a State or territory (e.g., cities, towns, counties);

- Federally recognized Tribal governments; and
- A multi-jurisdictional group of entities described above.

Multiple application deadlines for this cycle have been provided. The next application deadline is August 29, 2024. Funds will be awarded to applications submitted after each deadline. Funding awards in later deadlines will be contingent on the availability of remaining funds.

Grant Types

- Planning and Demonstration Grants - for comprehensive safety action plans, including supplemental safety planning, and/or safety demonstration activities; and,
- Implementation Grants – for developing, completing, or supplementing a comprehensive safety action plan, as well as conducting demonstration activities that inform an Action Plan. Implementation Grants are used to implement strategies or projects that are consistent with an existing Action Plan.

There is no restriction on the number of projects that each agency can submit. This Office received one project proposal from LADOT for Council consideration. The project – Pedestrianizing Roadways for LA28 and Beyond is seeking a planning and demonstration grant.

Cost Sharing and Matching Fund

The Federal share of an SS4A grant may not exceed 80 percent of total eligible project costs. Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of no less than 20 percent of total eligible project costs. Unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute, all matching funds must be from non-Federal sources. Tribal Transportation Program and Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds may be used as non-Federal match. Matching funds may include funding from the applicant, or other eligible non-Federal sources.

The total cost for the proposed project is \$7.5 million. The requested grant award is \$6 million and the local match is \$1.5 million. Match funding requirements will be met through in-kind City staff time expenditures.

Evaluation Criteria (Attachment 2)

Planning and Demonstration Grant applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Safety Impact;
- Equity;
- Additional Safety Context; and,
- Budget Cost.

This Office assessed with LADOT whether the grant proposals align with the evaluation criteria established for the grants. Upon evaluation, it has been determined that the projects satisfy the

intended purposes, eligibility requirements, and the specified evaluation criteria of the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no General Fund impact from the recommendations in this report.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

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

MWS:JSL:06250016

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1 - PROPOSED GRANT PROJECT

Administrator: Office of the Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation

Name of Grant: Safe Streets for All (SS4A) FY 2024 Grant Program

NOFO Release Date: April 16, 2024

Due date: August 29, 2024

Minimum Award \$100,000

Maximum Award \$25,000,000

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

Lead Department	Project Name		Total Project	Total Grant	Planned
LADOT/SCAG	Pedestrianizing Roadways for LA28 and Beyond	This demonstration project will utilize temporary materials to create a series of semi-permanent open streets events, opening roads to people and restricting vehicle traffic, along various segments of the City High Injury Network, leading up to and beyond the 2028 Olympic Games. Semi-permanent open streets could be installed, subject to future planning and engagement, on City roads with a history of transportation safety concerns, including Figueroa St to connect LA Live to Expo Park; Hollywood Blvd between Highland Ave and Orange Dr; and Wilshire Blvd from Alvarado St to La Fayette Park Pl. These temporary demonstrations would allow LADOT to better understand the potential benefits and impacts of more permanent roadway closures.	\$ 7,500,000	\$ 6,000,000	June 2029

ATTACHMENT 2 - PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria	Pedestrianizing Roadways for LA28 and Beyond
Safety Impact	The proposed segments of Figueroa, Hollywood, and Wilshire are major transportation corridors with high pedestrian and bicycle volumes. All three roadways experience the highest fatal and serious injury crashes in the City of Los Angeles. Given the anticipated influx of visitors and demand on the transportation network during the 2028 Summer Olympics, roadway pedestrianization will enable more visitors and Angelenos alike to travel these roadways safely and enjoyably, before, during, and after the Games.
Equity	Each of the three proposed demonstration areas are located within USDOT's Justice40 areas, highlighting a strong equity need. Traffic violence has a disproportionate impact on low-income communities of color and pedestrians. This project strives to transform the roadway into a comfortable place for neighboring residents and visitors alike to walk, bike and roll without the presence of heavy vehicle volumes and high speeds.
Additional Safety Context	This grant opportunity would provide a unique opportunity for the City to become a leader in pedestrianization of public space, demonstrating the safety benefits of eliminating vehicles on select streets to reduce conflicts between drivers and vulnerable road users on High Injury Network roadways. LADOT will work closely with the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los Angeles Police Department and local stakeholders to ensure planned demonstrations maintain access for emergency vehicles and situations.
Budget Cost	The proposed budget includes demonstration planning and coordination; stakeholder outreach and community engagement; staff support; procurement of semi-permanent materials; and evaluation of the demonstration's expected benefits and impacts.