

MEMORANDUM

TO: Genesee Transportation Council Members & Alternates
FROM: James Stack, Executive Director JS
DATE: June 1, 2023
SUBJECT: Authorizing an application to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation for a Planning and Demonstration Grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program

Background

On March 30, USDOT released the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). As an MPO, GTC is eligible for a Planning and Demonstration Grant to develop an Action Plan, conduct supplemental planning to enhance an Action Plan, and/or carry out demonstration activities to inform the development of, or an update to, an Action Plan. The application could be for any or all of these activities.

It was noted that the upcoming GTC Regional Safety Plan will include all the elements of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as prescribed by the SS4A program. Tasks include analysis of the existing conditions at both the regional and County levels, network screening for crashes, setting crash reduction targets, developing recommendations, and creating a Local Road Safety Plan Template that can be used by individual Counties or other jurisdictions.

Partner Outreach

GTC staff held meetings with each Member Agency to solicit their feedback on the proposed scope of 'Core' activities (Table 1). There is consensus that GTC should take the lead on "a multijurisdictional group of entities" application on behalf of relevant GTC Member Agencies (Counties and City of Rochester). The grant would focus on Supplemental planning and potentially Demonstration activities. These would provide greater focus on safety issues at the County-level or particular New York State Emphasis Areas.

Table 1 – Proposed 'Core' Grant Activities

Activity	Description	Coverage
Local Road Safety Plans	Develop Local Road Safety Plans to serve as a framework for identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing roadway safety improvements on local roads	1 per County and City of Rochester
Site Investigations	Identify crash contributing factors and develop targeted mitigation measures at select locations with a Potential for Safety Improvement	Regionwide
Roadway Safety Audits	Conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary reviews of roadways	Regionwide
Engagement	Facilitate a regional Safety Advisory Group and support of county Traffic Safety Boards or other community groups	Regionwide
Data Collection	Collect traffic counts, turn movements, and active transportation counts to support other activities	Regionwide

Staff have continued to have follow-on meetings with agencies regarding additional supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities (Table 2). These activities are included as part of GTC’s application since the necessary in-kind or local funding match is provided by that respective partner. Reconnect Rochester has identified the Complete Streets Makeover and a new Downtown Curb Extension Murals project as desired activities.

Monroe County Department of Transportation and Traffic Safety Office staff are continuing to identify eligible activities and matching funds for inclusion in the SS4A grant. These will be presented at the June 8 meeting.

Table 2 – Proposed ‘Additional’ Grant Activities

Activity	Description	Coverage
Complete Streets Makeover	Support existing Complete Streets Makeover program that implements a ‘tactical urbanism’ installation incorporating complete streets design one location per year.	Monroe County
Downtown Curb Extension Murals	Support to initiate a curb extension mural project in downtown Rochester that installs temporary curb extensions that are filled in with street murals designed by a local artist.	City of Rochester
Monroe County TBD	Additional planning, engagement, and demonstration activities.	Monroe County

Grant Amount

GTC staff will apply for \$2.185 million of Federal funding through the SS4A program (Table 3). The maximum Federal share for SS4A is 80 percent. Staff anticipate using both local cash (Table 4) and in-kind contributions of member agency time in order to meet the requirement.

Table 3 – Preliminary Budget

Revenues	Source	Federal \$	Local \$	In-Kind \$
Safe Streets and Roads for All	Federal	\$1,747,686		
Cash Match	Local		\$250,231	
In-Kind Match	Local/State/Other			\$186,691
Project Total			\$2,184,608	

Expenses	Lead Agency	Federal \$	Local \$	In-Kind \$
<i>Core Activities</i>				
Local Road Safety Plan (Urban)	GTC	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$0
Local Road Safety Plan (Rural)		\$320,000	\$80,000	\$0
Site Investigations		\$365,200	\$74,800	\$16,500
Roadway Safety Audits		\$160,000	\$0	\$40,000
Data Collection		\$50,000	\$0	\$12,500
Engagement		\$161,520	\$12,500	\$27,880
Program Management		\$200,000	\$0	\$50,000
<i>Core Activities Sub-Total</i>		\$1,496,720	\$227,300	\$146,880

Expenses	Lead Agency	Federal \$	Local \$	In-Kind \$
<i>Additional Activities</i>				
Complete Streets Makeover	} Reconnect } Rochester	\$159,242	\$0	\$39,811
Downtown Curb Extension Murals		\$91,724	\$22,931	\$0
Monroe County TBD	Monroe County	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Additional Activities Sub-Total</i>		\$250,966	\$22,931	\$39,811
Total			\$2,184,608	

The local share for 'Core' Activities is based upon a factor of \$.035 per person per year for each member agency. On May 13, Monroe County committed to provide \$30,000 per year.

Table 4 – Proposed Local Cash Funding Commitments

Member Agency	Population	Per Year	4-Year Total
Genesee County	58,388	\$2,000	\$8,000
Livingston County	61,834	\$2,200	\$8,800
Monroe County (less City of Rochester)	548,115	\$30,000	\$120,000
City of Rochester	211,328	\$7,500	\$30,000
Ontario County	112,458	\$3,900	\$15,600
Orleans County	40,343	\$1,400	\$5,600
Seneca County	33,814	\$1,200	\$4,800
Wayne County	91,238	\$3,200	\$12,800
Wyoming County	40,531	\$1,400	\$5,600
Yates County	24,774	\$900	\$3,600
Regionwide	1,222,823	\$53,700	\$214,800

Next Steps

If the GTC Board authorizes the Executive Director to respond to the SS4A NOFO, GTC staff will reach out to each member agency requesting a letter of commitment regarding their respective cash match and contribution of in-kind staff time. These will be submitted with the full application no later than July 10.

An announcement of funding awards is expected by the end of October from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. If awarded funding, a grant agreement with USDOT will likely be executed in early 2024 with work to begin after acceptance of the award by GTCS, Inc., the Host Agency for GTC.

Contributions of matching cash funds are not required prior to the award and executed grant agreement in early-2024.

Recommended Action:

Authorize the GTC Executive Director to respond to the Safe Streets and Roads for All NOFO.