

MEMORANDUM

TO: GTC Planning Committee Members & Alternates
FROM: James Stack, Executive Director JS
DATE: April 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity

On March 31, 2023, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) released the FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Applications are due July 10, 2023. Monroe County Department of Transportation has already reached out to see if GTC might pursue this grant opportunity. Some of your agencies may also be looking at this.

You may recall that this program was mentioned at the July 2022 Planning Committee meeting. A major concern of mine was the apparent requirement for formal action to commit Vision Zero before applying for funding. Simply put, we did not have time for a thorough discussion about Vision Zero before the application deadline. At that time, I recommended we pursue a Regional Safety Plan using UPWP funding available for IIJA Implementation, and the Planning Committee agreed.

GTC staff prepared a UPWP application and a Scope of Work for the Plan, which was approved by the Planning Committee at the January 5, 2023 meeting. An RFP was released on March 17, 2023 and proposals are due April 21, 2023.

The Plan will analyze the existing conditions at both the regional and County levels, conduct network screening for crashes, set crash reduction targets, develop recommendations, and create a Local Road Safety Plan Template that can be used by individual Counties or other jurisdictions. The Plan will include all the elements of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as prescribed by the SS4A program.

The results of the FY 2022 SS4A solicitation were announced on February 1, 2023. There were significantly fewer applications than USDOT expected. After ensuring they were appropriate use of the SS4A program, nearly all of the applications were funded. Applicants in New York State were awarded nearly \$38 million, with our counterparts in Albany being awarded \$1.15 million. Still, approximately \$177 million, out of \$400 million, went unawarded. The balance of FY 2022 funds have been combined so that the FY 2023 will make approximately \$577 million available nationwide.

Also, it is clear that Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting can come from a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) Policy Board and be "an ambitious percentage reduction of roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date with an eventual goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries" as opposed to a strict Vision Zero policy.

USDOT has used lessons learned from the FY 2022 to round to modify the FY 2023 solicitation. These changes make the NOFO more palatable. In particular:

- Planning and Demonstration Grants have replaced Action Plan Grants;
- eligibility requirements have changed; and

- allows applicants currently developing a comprehensive safety action plan to request additional funding for planning and demonstration.

Planning and Demonstration Grants can be used to 1) develop and Action Plan, 2) conduct supplemental planning to enhance an Action Plan, and 3) carry out demonstration activities to inform the development of, or an update to, an Action Plan. The application can be for any or all of these activities. The SS4A funds are available for five years after the grant agreement is executed. This allows time for location-specific, in-depth safety planning and analysis throughout the region.

I want to gauge interest in GTC taking the lead on "a multijurisdictional group of entities" application on behalf of relevant GTC Member Agencies (Counties and City of Rochester). The maximum federal share is 80 percent. While in-kind match is allowed, it can be a challenge to document and cannot be used to pay for professional services in support of individual locations. Therefore, I would also like to get a sense of the potential for cash match commitment that can be provided as part of an application.

If there is general consensus on moving forward, I suggest GTC staff prepare key elements of a proposal. We would like to coordinate with each member agency in advance to gain concurrence to let GTC apply on their behalf and obtain documentation relevant to a cash match commitment. We can present more details at the May 18 meeting for a final recommendation to the GTC Board to consider at their June 8 meeting.