



Memorandum

TO: City Councils of Wayne, Westland, Inkster, and Garden City
FROM: Laura Haw, AICP, NCI and Paul Urbiel, AICP
SUBJECT: **Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Federal Highway Administration Planning Grant: Introduction, Overview, and First Steps**
DATE: May 6, 2024

Congratulations! Your community has been awarded a Safe Streets for All Planning Grant.

In 2023, the cities of Wayne, Westland, Garden City, and Inkster jointly applied for federal funding to develop the Safe Streets for All Plan (with McKenna preparing the grant). The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program provides grants to communities for implementation, planning, and demonstration activities as part of a systematic approach to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways.

\$192,000, the full funding amount requested, was awarded to **develop an action plan** inclusive of all four communities. These funds will result in a strategy that makes your community **eligible for implementation grants** to upgrade your roadways and increase safety in the coming years. There is a \$12,000 match required from each community.

We at McKenna, as consulting planners to all four communities, are working to facilitate the creation of this plan by organizing, completing the technical analysis, facilitating community engagement, and ensuring reporting and grant requirements are met. This memorandum provides an introduction to the process, answers to some questions you may have, and describes first steps of the process as we mobilize for this exciting effort.

WHAT ARE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL?

This roadway safety program was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and provides \$5 billion over 5-years. The funding helps communities address the preventable crisis of deaths on our nation's roads, streets, and highways through safer people, roads, and vehicles; appropriate vehicle speeds; and improved post-crash care. SS4A is exclusively designed to help local communities. **As awardees in this cohort, Wayne, Westland, Inkster, and Garden City are among a small number of Michigan municipalities that are completing action plans, and therefore will be among the 'first in line' for implementation dollars.**

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The project team will create several working groups to ensure the project is completed and implemented in a timely manner, captures a representative sample of the public, and facilitates coordination between the four cities. There will be one internal staff group for day-to-day coordination, which consists of the following individuals:

- Lori Gouin, Director of Community Development/Planning and DDA, City of Wayne
- Mohamed Ayoub, Planning Director, City of Westland
- Nicole Jones, Planning and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, City of Westland



- Derek Dowdell, Planning Director, City of Inkster
- Sharde Crutchfield, Special Projects Director, City of Inkster
- Matthew Miller, Community Development Director, City of Garden City
- McKenna Staff

The team will engage the public of all four communities to assist with understanding of current conditions and inform strategy recommendations. We will be organizing and communicating with the additional working groups in the coming months.



WHAT IS IN THE ACTION PLAN?

The Action Plan will represent thorough analysis, robust engagement, and the development of implementable strategies to prevent deaths and serious injuries. Below is an overview of activities and plan elements:

Official Commitment: The four cities will adopt a joint commitment to eliminating traffic fatalities by a specified date, to be determined through negotiations between the ranking public officials.

Engagement Plan: The project team will design an engagement plan to ensure that all identified stakeholders are involved in the process, including community groups, businesses, and – most importantly – roadway users of all modes. This plan will incorporate traditional tools like surveys and public meetings, as well as a variety of creative methods to reach people, such as pop-up booths at school events, walking tours, and more.

Online Hub: The project team will create an online project page to showcase documents, advertise events, and track annual progress on the Action Plan.

Public Engagement: The project team will carry out the engagement activities specified in the engagement plan and collect feedback from each event, which will be posted on the project page in a timely manner. The project team will also regularly check in with each working group to review findings and draft sections of the Action Plan, to ensure it aligns with other local and regional safety efforts.

Existing Conditions Analysis: The project team will conduct three different analyses:

- *Traffic Data Analysis* to examine roadway incident data and involve a system analysis of the roadway network to identify high-risk locations and designs.
- *Equity Analysis* to examine which areas/tracts are most affected by social, economic, and infrastructure deficiencies.
- *Policy Analysis* to examine the differing laws/policies of the four communities and identify areas for improvement.

Strategy Selection: The project team will use the public engagement feedback and analysis findings to create a range of possible strategies for the Action Plan. These strategies will then be refined based on their cost, ability to scale, and appropriateness given the local context.



Implementation and Monitoring Plan: The selected strategies will be organized into an implementation plan with timelines, funding, and agencies assigned to each to ensure accountability. A monitoring schedule will also be developed, to be followed by the implementation working group. The group will report on the Action Plan progress toward reducing fatalities and serious injuries on an annual basis.

WHEN WILL THIS ACTION PLAN BE CREATED?

Below is a high-level overview of the project schedule. The team is currently working with the FHWA to complete the grant agreement, and work will begin in earnest once we are clear of that first critical milestone.

Once the Action Plan has been accepted by the FHWA, your community will be eligible to apply for new implementation funding in the future to construct roadway improvements.

Milestones	2024								2025									
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Draft Plan Completion	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Final Plan Completion												x	x	x				
Final Plan Adoption															x	x	x	
SS4A Final Report																		x

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Safe Streets for All Program Fact Sheet: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/fact-sheet>

Press release: [Safe Streets and Roads for All - Announcement | US Department of Transportation](#)

All the awarded projects listed here: [2023 SS4A Awards | US Department of Transportation](#)

Contact McKenna planners with any questions at (248) 596.0920:

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