



DATE: August 7, 2024

TO: Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee

FROM: Bjorn Gripenburg, MCRP, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Authorize the Chair to Provide a Letter of Support for the City's Application to the US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) authorize the Chair to provide a letter of support for the City's application to the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

On March 28, 2024, Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) issued a call for projects for a multi-jurisdictional/Countywide application to the USDOT's SS4A grant program, which includes \$5 billion in funding over the next five years for implementation projects and action plans that aim to prevent deaths and serious injuries from traffic collisions. The SS4A grant program prioritizes safety, low-cost, high-impact strategies that will improve safety over wide geographic areas, equitable investments that meet the safety needs of urban and rural underserved communities, evidence-based projects and strategies, actions which promote equity, climate and sustainability, quality job creation, and economic strength and global competitiveness.

SS4A has two application categories: Planning/Demonstration, which allows for quick-build improvements and planning activities, and Implementation, which allows for higher cost, long-term capital improvements. In the previous application cycle, the Planning/Demonstration category was undersubscribed, while the Implementation category was highly competitive.

DISCUSSION

After reviewing SS4A guidelines from USDOT and SCTA and consulting with SCTA staff, staff

submitted two applications for SCTA’s consideration in April 2024: 1) Safe Streets Quick-Build Improvements (Planning/Demonstration category), and 2) Citywide Intersection and Crosswalk Safety Improvements (Implementation category). SCTA staff selected applications they felt would be most competitive and elected to prepare a countywide application for the Planning/Demonstration category, which includes Petaluma’s Safe Streets Quick-Build application.

Petaluma’s portion of the application would implement quick-build safe streets and traffic calming improvements on top-scoring eligible streets identified through the Safe Streets Nomination Program, many of which would also address improvements identified by the Safe Routes to School Task Force. Corridors were ranked based on their collision history (frequency and severity), with weighting prioritizing collisions involving people walking or bicycling and in proximity to schools and parks. The final application includes the following corridors:

- Ely Blvd. S. (E. Washington St. – Frates Rd.)
- Payran St. (E. D St. – SMART tracks)
- E. D St. (Lakeville St. - Payran St.)
- B St. (Petaluma Blvd. – El Rose Dr.)
- Crinella Dr. (McGregor Ave. – Casa Grande Rd.)
- Park Ln. (Maria Dr. – Caulfield Ln.)
- Ellis St. (Madison St. – E. Washington St.)
- Baywood Dr. (S. McDowell Blvd. – Louise Dr.)
- 2nd St. (D St. – G St.)

It should be noted that two corridors from Petaluma’s original application have since been removed: Madison Street (Lakeville St. – Ellis St.), which will be addressed following completion of a sewer main project in late 2024/early 2025, and Bodega Avenue (N. Webster St. – Howard St.), which staff feels will require additional analysis, community engagement, and scoping prior to implementation. In exchange, staff added Ely Boulevard South, which is part of the City’s High-Injury Network and presents an opportunity to implement a lane reduction to improve safety for all road users.

SCTA is currently developing cost estimates for the application and may need to refine the scope of improvements to keep the countywide application under the \$10m maximum allowed in the Planning/Demonstration category.

CITYWIDE GOALS & PRIORITIES

The efforts outlined above support City Council’s Active Transportation Plan Goal, a top priority for 2024, as well as the following Council Workplan Items:

- #18: Establish and improve paths, as useful transportation options, and make walking and biking easy, fun and safe.
- #20: Better integration of multi-modal transportation with street designs.
- #79: Improve traffic safety through proactive education, engineering, and enforcement strategies.
- #85: Implement City Vision Zero plan with a focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety with improvements to uncontrolled crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalk, and bicycle infrastructure.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. SS4A Letter of Support