



MEMORANDUM

To: County Engineers

From: Erin Aleman, Executive Director

Date: August 10, 2022

Subject: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) regional application

Action requested: The purpose of this memo is to provide information and seek direction on how to proceed.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is prepared to apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant in the form of a regional proposal, in part, to develop safety action plans for interested county partners. Whether your county already has a [Vision Zero action plan](#) in place or is just beginning to create a safety plan, now is the time to take a proactive approach to safety and take advantage of the new federal funding. Would your county be interested in partnering with CMAP on this regional application?

Background:

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the U.S. Department of Transportation [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) grants will provide funding for two types of activities: developing comprehensive safety action plans and implementing projects in those plans. You can find more details in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) released in May.

The Action Plan Grants are available to develop or complete a safety action plan and supplemental planning activities. There is a maximum award of \$5M for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) or joint multijurisdictional applications and a performance period of up to 24 months. The award requires a 20 percent local match.

The Implementation Grants are available to implement strategies or projects consistent with an eligible action plan. Depending on the applicant, the maximum award is \$30M to \$50M, while the minimum is \$5M. There is a performance period of up to 5 years. The award requires a 20 percent local match.



There cannot be a jurisdictional overlap of applications within the same grant type.

Current status:

The region's communities have reached crisis levels of traffic injuries and fatalities, and pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities are increasing at an alarming rate. CMAP's stated commitment to improving travel safety has never been more urgent. Based on the Safety Action Agenda work from the last two years, CMAP is developing a comprehensive Safe and Complete Streets program. This program is a multi-year effort to improve regional traffic safety by using innovative data analysis to inform compelling policy recommendations and local collaborations to effect change.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant offers the region a unique opportunity to develop and fund a portion of those activities and demonstrate that making streets safe and complete is our top transportation priority. Therefore, CMAP is prepared to submit a regional proposal for the grant, including, in part, the development of safety action plans for interested county partners.

Some county plans will be updates to existing safety plans, and some will be new plans. But all will build on existing efforts and will be unique to each county based on local issues and the level of planning already in place. The action plans will include key elements, such as developing a Vision Zero Network, prioritizing projects based on safety needs and underserved populations, building community and political buy-in, and pivoting to a Safe System approach to roadway safety work.

The standard components of each safety action plan will be:

- Regional framing of safety issues and policy recommendations
- Utilization of data resources to understand safety issues and drive recommendations, such as identifying locations and safety risks to prioritize interventions
- A survey of residents to identify and understand perceived safety issues and barriers to mobility
- Close coordination with safety and equity partners, including IDOT, and advocates
- An equity-centered process with supporting data to achieve the mission of [Justice 40](#) through the safety planning process

To meet the grant's match requirements, CMAP would look to county partners to contribute the local match corresponding to their portion of the overall award.

Discussion / next steps:

For counties interested in partnering with CMAP in a regional application, we are looking for a general commitment of interest and discussion of county needs at the meeting on August 10.



There will then be follow-up conversations with each county representative seeking to formalize partnerships, including a letter of support for the grant application and an intergovernmental agreement setting forth the scope of work and terms of the partnership.

Recommendation:

CMAP and our partners must urgently come together to meaningfully improve safe and accessible transportation for everyone, especially vulnerable road users. Through a regionwide and locally collaborative program, we can unite to implement policy changes and projects focused on reducing crashes and implementing safe, accessible, and connected transportation options for everyone.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant is an excellent opportunity to do this. By joining together behind a regional application, we increase the competitiveness of our application. We urge you to join us and support this regional application.

Attachments: Template letter of support; Template intergovernmental agreement

CC: Stephane Phifer, deputy executive director of planning at CMAP