



City of Santa Barbara  
Transportation and Circulation Committee

## Staff Report

**DATE:** August 22, 2024  
**TO:** Transportation and Circulation Committee  
**FROM:** Jessica W. Grant, Supervising Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Safe Streets for All Action Plan Planning Effort

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### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation and Circulation Committee receive a presentation on the Safe Streets for All Action Plan Planning Effort.

### BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program provides grants to local, regional, and Tribal communities for implementation, planning, and demonstration activities as part of a systematic approach to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways.

This roadway safety program was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and provides \$5 billion of grant monies over a period of five years. This 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 collision analysis.

The SS4A program funds two types of grants:

1. Planning and Demonstration Grants for Comprehensive Safety Action Plans, including supplemental safety planning and demonstration activities to inform an Action Plan.
2. Implementation Grants to implement strategies or projects identified in an existing Action Plan.

In December 2023, the City of Santa Barbara (City) was awarded SS4A Planning Grant in the amount of \$799,000 with a twenty percent City-match to prepare a SS4A Action Plan (Action Plan). The goal of the Action Plan is to prevent traffic related fatalities and serious injuries within the City, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all by strategically identifying infrastructure improvements that remove barriers to safe mobility.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City has adopted the Pedestrian (2006) and Bicycle (2016) Master Plans, and the Santa Barbara Vision Zero Strategy (Vision Zero). The infrastructure projects identified in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans have largely been completed or are funded to be completed in the next few years. The Vision Zero Strategy incorporates infrastructure actions that need to be further developed and analyzed to be ready for funding. Building upon these planning efforts, this Action Plan will:

- Document and map completed and funded infrastructure improvements along the City's existing Vision Zero High Priority Corridors. The map will also show the City's existing and funded active transportation network.
- Perform updated Safety Analysis to identify if any changes or additions are needed to the City's Vision Zero High Priority Corridors.
- Identify underserved communities that will include equity impact assessments of traffic collision data, proposed projects, and strategies.
- Conduct and document robust community and stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- Update policies and processes to improve prioritization of transportation safety.
- Identify safety countermeasures to reflect best practices that could be easily incorporated with pavement maintenance, City capital and/or land development projects.
- Develop short-, mid-, and long-term projects to improve safety. Preliminary survey and cost estimates are included to prepare for future funding opportunities for a few selected projects.
- Update Safe Routes to School Maps and identify additional safety enhancements along the routes.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

The USDOT awarded the City grant funding to prepare an Action Plan in December 2023. The City is coordinating with USDOT and the local state representatives on finalizing the contract necessary to begin the work effort, and it is anticipated that grant funding will be appropriated by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Once the grant funding is appropriated, the City will have two years to complete the Planning effort. The first few months of the planning effort will focus on base mapping in GIS of existing and funded infrastructure, mapping underserved communities, school boundaries, and Vision Zero High Priority Corridors. Please note that this effort will be happening concurrently with several active transportation projects currently in design.

For community engagement, the City has partnered with California Walks and SafeTREC to assist with development of a survey that would go out to students and families within

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the Santa Barbara Unified and Hope School Districts, as well as community members that live along Vision Zero Priority Corridors.

Once initial community feedback is received, the City will re-engage with the schools and community to develop solutions for addressing their concerns with short-, mid-, and long-term projects to improve safety. With community support, a few projects will be selected for concept design and preliminary costs so the City can be better positioned for future grant opportunities.

Finally, the Planning Effort will be summarized in an Action Plan including policies and safety countermeasures to reflect best practices in roadway safety. The Action Plan will go before the TCC for review and comment. City Council will be required to review and adopt the Action Plan.