

INTRODUCED: June 13, 2022

A RESOLUTION No. 2022-R041

To express the City Council’s support for the City’s participation in the United States Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Program to provide funding for the implementation of Vision Zero traffic safety program activities to achieve the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the streets of the city of Richmond.

Patron – Mayor Stoney, Vice President Robertson, Mr. Addison, Mr. Jones,
Ms. Jordan and Ms. Lambert

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUN 27 2022 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the Council supported the development of a Vision Zero traffic safety program in the City of Richmond by Resolution No. 2016-R011, adopted March 7, 2016, and reaffirmed its support through Resolution No. 2017-R093, adopted March 12, 2018, to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030, through comprehensive planning, including promoting improvements in surface transportation performance and safety for travelers; and

WHEREAS, the City’s participation in the United States Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Program would provide funding for the

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JUN 27 2022 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

implementation of additional Vision Zero program activities to achieve the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the streets of the city of Richmond; and

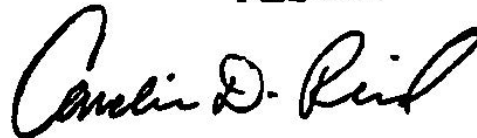
WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council support the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Program to provide funding for the implementation of Vision Zero traffic safety program activities to achieve the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the streets of the city of Richmond;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council hereby expresses its support for the City's participation in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Program to provide funding for the implementation of Vision Zero traffic safety program activities to achieve the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the streets of the city of Richmond and, to the extent permitted by law, commits to the 20 percent matching funds if the project is approved for funding.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City Clerk



City of Richmond

Intracity Correspondence

O&R REQUEST

DATE: May 24, 2022

EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Robert C. Steidel; Deputy Chief Administrative Officer – Operations

THROUGH: Bobby Vincent; Director of Public Works

THROUGH: M. S. Khara, P.E.; City Engineer

FROM: Michael B. Sawyer, P.E.; City Transportation Engineer *MBS*

RE: **TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL ‘SAFER STREETS FOR ALL’ (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL VISION ZERO ACTIVITIES.**

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To request the City Council’s approval for the City of Richmond participating and addressing the goals and objectives found in the Vision Zero Action Plan for the FY22 SS4A implementation grant application process and to commit to the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved for the project.

REASON: An approved Council Resolution indicating the Council’s request for participation and support of the identified potential projects and supplemental activities, and commitment to provide the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved, is required in order to participate in the FY22 SS4A Implementation Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Department of Public Works recommends approval of this resolution.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.0 billion in FY22 grant funding through the SS4A discretionary grant program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The SS4A discretionary grants can be used to implement projects and strategies found within the Safe and Healthy Street

Commission's adopted Vision Zero Action Plan. Overall, USDOT plans to award \$400 million in grants to establish action plans and \$600 million in grants to implement projects and supplemental activities. For the implementation grants, the USDOT plans to award up to 100 grants.

This is a discretionary grant funding program to accept applications as directed by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For the 2022 SS4A grants, maximum funding for each selected project is \$30 million, minimum funding is \$5 million, and no single state shall be awarded more than total of \$90 million in implementation grant funding.

Deadline of application is September 15, 2022. If the project is funded, the funds need to be obligated through September 30, 2026 and the selected project needs to be completed and funds are expended by September 30, 2031. If the grant is available in October 2022, the design is anticipated to be completed in 2024. Construction begins in 2025 and completes in 2026, which is well aligned with the grant schedule requirements.

The total estimated cost of the projects and supplemental activities is \$20,000,000. The grant program requires the City to provide 20% (\$4 million) matching fund as they provide 80% (\$16 million) fund for the project. The City's \$4 million matching fund is proposed to be appropriated using City CIP GO bond and/or CVTA Local Special Fund and/or state transportation funding for FY24 through FY25 budget years. Due to rigorous studies in technical, economic, environmental, and cost benefit analyses, the City is hiring a consultant to prepare and assist in submitting the grant application. Application preparation cost is estimated at \$40,000. Adopted FY23 DPW Transportation Engineering Special Funds will be utilized for this application preparation task.

The proposed low cost, systemic safety projects and supplemental actions meets the required criteria of SS4A Grants. The criteria include (1) safety impact, (2) equity, engagement, and collaboration (3) effective practices and strategies, (4) climate change and sustainability, and economic competitiveness, (5) project readiness, and (6) funds to underserved communities.

Traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on city streets are not limited to one location. These severe crashes occur across the city with greater frequency on the arterial streets that carry more people who walk, bike, roll, ride transit, and drive. These streets are wider and often have multiple travel lanes. Richmond's High Injury Network (HIN) will continue to be the focus. The HIN comprises 7 percent of the roadway network and account for 62 percent of the severe crashes that result in a permanent detour from a person's original destination to the morgue or hospital with life ending or life altering injuries. A safe systems approach coupled with a complete streets process will enable the City of Richmond to deliver a comprehensive approach that serves all users, regardless of age or ability through a proposed package of projects and supplemental activities to reduce the likelihood of a severe crash to zero.

The Virginia Department of Health uses a Health Opportunity Index (HOI) as a composite measure of the social, economic, educational, demographic, and environmental factors that relates to a

community's well-being. A "health in transportation" approach is required to address traffic-related deaths and serious injuries in an equitable manner. The HOI includes indicators of neighborhood walkability and access to transportation for those that are low income, disabled, or elderly. These factors are relevant to Vision Zero, Safe Systems, and Complete Streets. Areas in the City that scored a "very low" HOI have almost three times as many traffic related deaths and serious injuries compared to the other four quintiles of HOI combined in the City of Richmond. Further investment in these communities of concern with a package of projects with supplemental activities will improve the overall health outcomes of residents in the areas with the greatest needs. Our stakeholders continue to determine which factors have the greatest influence in these communities.

Streets classified as arterials in the City of Richmond are the location of the overwhelming number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries, including pedestrians because of a greater number of users and higher vehicle operating speeds. 81 percent of all traffic related deaths and serious injuries occur at intersections with 51 percent of pedestrian crashes occurring at intersection. Pedestrian related deaths and serious injuries are disproportionately high when compared to other localities in Virginia and across the country. Where pedestrian activity is higher and there is more exposure, the number of crashes increases.

By providing the funding for these Vision Zero projects and supplemental activities, this will enable the City of Richmond with its partners to provide a critical transportation safety improvements on the HIN resulting in lives saved and life changing injuries prevented.

If funding for this project is not obtained, traffic related deaths and serious injuries will continue to occur on city streets and the city's residents and visitors will not see the benefits of our Vision Zero goals realized. Transportation safety can have huge negative impacts on health, well being and personal finances. This funding will allow the City to address severe traffic-related crashes on heavily used city streets for multimodal transportation users of all ages and abilities.

The intent of this resolution is to provide City Council authorization to participate in the 2022 SS4A Grant program and to commit 20% matching funds if the federal funding is awarded for the project.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: \$40,000 to prepare the grant application that is funded thru FY23 DPW Transportation Engineering Special Fund (Cost Center 02910). Additionally, \$ 4,000,000 in matching 20% City funds in FY24 thru FY25 City CIP and/or CVTA Local Special Funds and/or state transportation funding, if federal grant is approved. The cost is the required 20% match of the total estimated \$ 20,000,000 implementation cost.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Not participating in this program eliminates the possibility of receiving up to \$16,000,000 (80%) in federal SS4A funds for project implementation and supplemental activities.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: Not at this time. It is anticipated that City will allocate the required 20% matching City funds from City CIP and/or CVTA Local Special Funds and/or state transportation funds in FY24 thru FY25 when and if the project/grant is approved by the USDOT.

REVENUE TO CITY: \$16,000,000, if grant application is approved.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: June 13, 2022.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: June 27, 2022.

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Standing Committee meeting (June 21, 2022).

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Public Works, Law Department, Planning & Community Development, Economic Development, Park and Recreation, Finance Department, Budget and Strategic Planning. Copies also sent to: City Mayor (Levar M. Stoney); Chief Administrative Officer (J.E. Lincoln Saunders) and City Attorney (2)

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): None.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

STAFF: M. S. Khara, P.E., City Engineer, 646-5413
Michael B. Sawyer, P.E., City Transportation Engineer, 646-3435
Travis A. Bridewell, Operations Manager, 646-5745