



Council Agenda Report

Item 6i

Department: Public Works
Cost Center: 5010
For Agenda of: 4/16/2024
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Matt Horn, Public Works Director
Prepared By: Adam Fukushima, Active Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Draft Resolution entitled, “A Resolution of the City Council of San Luis Obispo, California, approving the application for grant funding for the Federal Safe Streets and Roads for all (SS4A) program for the South Broad Complete Street Project” authorizing:

- A. Staff to prepare and submit an application for the SS4A grant program of up to \$500,000 for the South Broad Street Project;
- B. The use of up to \$100,000 of the previously approved funding as matching funds for this grant;
- C. The City Manager to appropriate grant funds and approve a budget amendment to reflect received grant funds, if awarded;
- D. The appointment of the City Manager, or their designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all grant documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Policy Context

The [South Broad Street Area Plan](#), adopted by the City Council on December 2, 2014, implements General Plan policies for the South Broad Street area corridor to create a safe, attractive and economically vital neighborhood with a mix of complementary land uses that encourages walking, bicycling and public transit use.

The Broad Street corridor between South Street and the southern City Limit is identified as part of the Tier 1 network of the Active Transportation Plan for planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

The Broad Street corridor has also been identified as a High Collision Rate Roadway Segment, with a history of high frequency and severity of traffic collisions.

Per Section 740 of the City’s Financial Management Manual, staff is required to obtain Council approval prior to applying for grant applications over \$5,000.

DISCUSSION

Background

The [South Broad Street Area Plan](#) implements General Plan policies for the South Broad Street area corridor to create a safe, attractive and economically vital neighborhood with a mix of complementary land uses that encourages walking, bicycling and public transit use. It is important to remember that the South Broad Street Plan provided zoning for an estimated additional 355 new dwellings and therefore, multimodal connections will become increasingly important as the area develops.

During the Mid-year Budget Review on February 6, 2024, the City Council received public comment requesting transportation improvements on South Broad Street and Council allocated \$400,000 to advance early planning for the project and an additional \$400,000 for staffing support.

Staff has begun the early planning for the South Broad Complete Street project and is exploring grant opportunities to complete preliminary study focused on transportation issues and begin outreach and early design to supplement recently allocated funding by Council at the Mid-Year Budget Review.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

Congress has authorized the Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program, which is administered by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Over \$3 billion is still available for future funding rounds and the program requires a 20% match of local funds. Given unsuccessful prior experience in applying for this grant to fund construction for other projects and further discussions with USDOT staff, staff recommends applying for up to \$500,000 to assist in planning and demonstration activities for the South Broad Complete Street corridor, which may have a higher chance of being awarded.

Planning activities would include stakeholder engagement, a roadway safety audit, safety analysis, and expanded data collection. The grant funds would also help to broaden the study area along the South Broad Street corridor to extend from High Street to the southern City Limit (near Farmhouse Lane) rather than just South Street to Tank Farm Road as discussed at the Mid-Year Budget Review. Pilot “demonstration activities” would test out designs with temporary materials, such as buffered bicycle lanes, bulb-outs, temporary medians, and left-turn provisions between South Street and Orcutt Road to inform the design of more permanent features later on.

The project's anticipated timeframe is as follows:

<i>Task</i>	<i>Anticipated Schedule</i>
Submit SS4A Grant Application	Spring 2024
Staffing Mobilization and Data Collection	Spring - Summer 2024
Begin Public Outreach and Corridor Study	Fall 2024
Draft Corridor Recommendations and Demonstration Project Initiation	Fall 2025
Finalize Corridor Plan and Initiate Final Design	Spring 2026

The schedule above is preliminary and dependent on grant administration requirements and resources.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

On February 6, 2024, the City Council approved \$800,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Mid-year Budget Review for staffing and to advance early planning for a South Broad Complete Street project to incorporate elements of the South Broad Street Area Plan and the Active Transportation Plan.

Public Engagement

At Council's Mid-year Budget Review meeting on February 6, 2024, residents requested advancing the South Broad Complete Street project.

CONCURRENCE

The Public Works Department, Finance Department, and City Administration have reviewed this authorization request and concur with its contents.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

There is no environmental review required for grant submittals. The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2023-24

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

There is currently \$800,000 in the South Broad Street Corridor Account (Project: 2001070). Staff recommends using \$100,000 of this funding as the required 20% local match for the \$500,000 grant request for the SS4A funding program.

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance
General Fund	\$800,000	\$100,000	\$700,000
Federal: SS4A Grant*	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Total	\$800,000	\$600,000	\$700,000

*If grant application is successful.

ALTERNATIVES

Deny authorization to apply for grant funding. The City Council could choose to deny the request to apply for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant program. This alternative is not recommended because this grant would provide critical supplemental funding sources for transportation improvements on the South Broad Street project.

ATTACHMENTS

A – Draft Resolution Authorizing Submittal of SS4A Grant Application