



City Commission Agenda Report

City of Kalamazoo

Date: **8/7/2023**

Item: **G.6.**

TO: Mayor Anderson, Vice Mayor Cooney, and City Commissioners

FROM: James K. Ritsema, ICMA-CM, City Manager
Reviewed by: James Baker, Public Services Director
Prepared by: Kerry Lyn Williams, Grants Division Manager

DATE: August 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a Safe Streets for All Grant from the US Department of Transportation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Commission accept a \$750,000 Safe Streets for All Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents.

BACKGROUND:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program, 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. The SS4A program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and our goal of zero roadway deaths.

The City of Kalamazoo, MI grant was awarded to this grant accomplish two main categories of activities. The first group will support finalization of the Supplemental Action Plan. Supplemental Action Plan Activities (Category A) include implementation and analysis of a variety of approved countermeasures to determine local effectiveness and plan for future use in areas where interventions are indicated via the studies above. All countermeasures will be implemented as pilots in areas of high need and evaluated to determine the impact on all users (motorized and non-motorized) as the City works to actively improve safety, reduce fatalities, and achieve Vision Zero.

Category A projects will identify potential sites for pilot studies (Category B projects). Studies begin at the city-wide level and then switch to the focus area for selection of projects that would be most in line with demographic and environmental justice concerns (for example, lower income neighborhoods). These studies will provide definitive guidance for planners, engineers, and elected officials on how to keep deferred maintenance from disproportionately harming traditionally underserved communities, based on traffic safety measures (a surrogate for

community health). As a final step, the information gained through supplemental activities will be combined with the current Action Plan to create a comprehensive plan to be presented to, and ideally adopted, by the Kalamazoo City Commission and implemented. When complete, the City will have a final Action Plan and adopt a Vision Zero Policy.

Please see the attached file for information on specific projects and plans.

STRATEGIC VISION ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Goal Impact:

Safe Community- Creating a safe environment for living, working, and playing

Connected City - A City networked for walking, biking, riding, and driving

Complete Neighborhoods - residential areas that support the full range of people's daily needs

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Appropriate Depth of Engagement

Collaborate (two-way conversation) - the community will have a chance to shape the project by providing feedback.

Discussion: Pilots will be implemented, data collected, and discussions will occur with the community to determine what is working best for all involved and how to incorporate the data/strategies into future actions.

Engagement/Communication Tools

Meetings, surveys, online feedback, and conversations

FISCAL IMPACT:

This grant of \$750,000 will be matched with funding from two 2023 FFE-funded projects (\$185,000 total) and a grant from the National Highway Safety Transportation Administration (received in 2022) to accomplish all the described tasks. The grant leverages these non-City funding sources to maximize their impact. There will be no other impact on the city budget.

A project will be set up to track the expenditures of the grant once it has been accepted by City Commission.