



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 31

**Agenda Date:** June 22, 2023

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Sustainability

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Douglas Melnick

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance approving the submission and acceptance of funds upon award of a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to design and construct a complete street corridor between Malone Avenue and Culberson Avenue.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance approves the submission and acceptance of funds upon award of a \$20,000,000 United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to design and construct a complete street corridor between Malone Avenue and Culberson Avenue. Funding would be used for the design and construction costs to reconstruct the Zarzamora corridor, to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and to authorize the Office of Sustainability, Public Works Department, and Parks and Recreation Department to execute any and all documents.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) is a competitive, discretionary grant program open to Metropolitan Planning Organizations, counties, cities, towns, and other special districts that are subdivisions of

State or federally recognized Tribal governments, to improve roadway safety for all users. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released on March 30, 2023, and applications are due by July 10, 2023. Funding will be sent directly to the awarded recipients. This program will support the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy vision toward zero deaths and serious injuries initiative.

In Fiscal Year 2022, as part of the Transportation Department's Vision Zero Action Plan and Severe Pedestrian/Bicycle Injury (SPIA/SBIA) reports, staff identified several corridors where high volumes of crashes have occurred, and safety measures are needed. One of these corridors is Zarzamora. On February 1, 2023, the City of San Antonio received \$4.4 Million to fund the design and construction of eight (8) Vision Zero mid-block crossings along this street and launch an education and safety campaign for the area. To continue with the implementation of safety improvements along this corridor, the Office of Sustainability and the Parks and Recreation Department have collaborated to submit a grant application for a critical segment on this corridor that has seen in the past three years at least 47 recorded crashes per the Texas Department of Transportation Crash Report Information System (CRIS), between Malone and Culberson Ave. These safety improvements will encourage cyclists and pedestrians to access public spaces such as the Normoyle Park and its amenities. The requested funding is for \$20 million with a 20% match from the recipient.

The proposed improvements consist of a 12-ft multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians on the westside of the road, and a 6-ft sidewalk to the eastside. In an effort, to utilize the existing right of way, the utilities will need to be buried as part of the project scope including complete road reconstruction for the identified corridor. In addition, intersections improvements such as curb ramps that meet all American with Disability Requirements, pedestrian signalization, and illumination are being proposed. Tree planting and low impact development vegetation will be included to meet the sustainability requirement and promote a green corridor. The project length is approximately one-half mile and will provide the community safe connectivity to Normoyle Park, bus facilities, and more. Enhancing emission-free transportation options, walkability, and green infrastructure are all priorities of the SA Climate Ready Plan.

The cost estimate for these safety improvements is \$20 million of which the grant recipient will have to contribute 20% of the funding, \$4 million. The Office of Sustainability and the Parks and Recreation Department will utilize an on-call consultant to perform services required for a successful grant application. If funding is awarded the Public Works Department will be the lead in designing and constructing the proposed improvements.

## **ISSUE:**

The Office of Sustainability requires the authorization of the full City Council to submit and accept funds upon award of an USDOT SS4A grant application. The proposed project drives forward multiple City initiatives including Vision Zero and the Residential, Energy Efficiency, and

Sustainability Fund efforts. Additionally, the project supports the national 10-minute walk to a park initiative which is referenced in the adopted SA Tomorrow Plan.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Council could forego the grant opportunity and would have to leverage local funding in lieu of seeking alternative grant opportunities or funding sources to deliver the proposed project which includes a one-half mile complete green street.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance approves the submission and acceptance of funds upon award of a \$20,000,000 United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to design and construct a complete street corridor between Malone Avenue. and Culberson Avenue. The proposed project requires a \$4,000,000.00 local match to secure \$20,000,000.00 in grant funding. Funding for the local match is available in the Resiliency, Energy, Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund FY 2023 Adopted Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Office of Sustainability recommends approval of this ordinance.