



Legislation Text

File #: 10899, **Version:** 1

TITLE

Submittal of Safe Street and Roads for All Grant Application to Department of Transportation for FY 2022 Grant Program, to Develop, Thinking Outside the Car: Hernando's Safe Streets for All Action Plan

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or the Department) is soliciting applications for Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) grants. DOT is making \$1 billion available for the program in FY 2022. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance and improbability users, motorists and commercial vehicle operations.

The purpose of SS4A grants is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through safety action plan development and implementation focused on all users.

The primary goal of the SS4A grant is to promote safety by supporting communities in developing comprehensive safety action plans based on a Safe Systems Approach and implementing projects and strategies that specifically reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries

Hernando County is requesting \$333,000 to develop an Action Plan to develop low-cost high impact strategies that will improve user safety within the entire County. The County will consider options such as enhanced delineations, Safe Streets Criteria and Road Safety Audits on particular roadways, including other safety enhancements.

Developing the Action Plan will start with the Hernando County Commission adopting a goal for zero roadway fatalities or an ambitious percentage reduction.

The Commission will also establish the Stakeholder Committee with oversight of the Action Plan Development. A broad analysis will be done on Hernando County existing conditions and historical trends to determine the short, medium, and long-range elements of the Action Plan Areas. Once the areas have been established, various meetings will be held to incorporate all stakeholders in the area that is being studied.

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), City of Brooksville, and Citizen groups throughout the County will be represented as stakeholders. As part of the meetings, the County will ensure that the process is inclusive and representative.

The Action Plan will develop strategies to promote safety and equity that will include innovative

technology based and low-cost high impact strategies. These may include Speed Safety cameras as well as established methods such as Safety Edge. The Plan will develop locationally appropriate strategies.

The Action Plan will focus on projects, policies, and process changes that will need to be implemented to achieve the goals established in the Action Plan. As the final component of the Action Plan, a list of projects and strategies will be prioritized over the planning horizon established in the Action Plan.

The Action Plan will also provide for “Before/After” criteria to determine the effectiveness of the strategies implemented.

Development of the Action Plan will require “Thinking Outside the Car.”

The Department of Public Works is seeking authorization to apply for the grant and submit the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) application.

The deadline submittal date of the application is September 15, 2022; however, if the County is awarded the grant, final approval of the grant award will be scheduled for acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners.

The grant requires a twenty percent (20%) match.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The grant requires a twenty percent (20%) match. If awarded, the grant funds will be budgeted in FY 23/24 for the grant match.

LEGAL NOTE

The Board has the authority to take action on this matter pursuant to Chapter 125, Florida Statutes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board authorize staff to submit the attached Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application.