



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION
MEETING DATE	MAY 4, 2026

ITEM:	Initiation of Regional Solicitation Funding Application for 44th Avenue NE Redesign from Main Street to Central Avenue. (15 Minutes)		
<i>Presenting Item: Rochelle Widmer, Director of Engineering and Facilities</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Engineering		BY/DATE: Rochelle Widmer / May 1, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
_ Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		_ Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_ High Quality Public Spaces		_ Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
X Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_ Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The City previously hired Bolton & Menk to assist with development of a Transportation Safety Action Plan through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program. The plan was completed in July 2025 and included a list of priority projects for the City to consider for implementation.

Of the high priority project corridors, many are either under the jurisdiction of MnDOT or Anoka County. Projects are in development along University Avenue (TH 47) and Central Avenue (TH 65) and being led by MnDOT. Additionally, Anoka County generally applies for funding for roadways under their jurisdiction. Applying for funding to help support the local roadway network is the typical strategy for the City.

Based on information contained within the Transportation Safety Action Plan, 44th Avenue appears to be a good candidate for funding when considering the City’s local roadway network. The construction costs are estimated at \$5.46 million for the segment between TH 47 and TH 65, and at \$1.54 million for the segment between Main Street and TH 47. Those costs do not include engineering, legal and administrative costs. Costs for easements, if required, would also be an additional expense.

The are several funding programs for which applications are being solicited in 2026:

- SS4A Implementation (Opens March 27, 2026. Applications are due May 26, 2026)
- Regional Solicitation (Opens May 7, 2026. Applications are due June 25, 2026)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (Similar to Regional Solicitation)

The SS4A funding program is highly competitive and is more tailored to the trunk highway system. HSIP funding is somewhat limited by the maximum award amount. The maximum award amount hasn’t been published for the 2026 application cycle but is typically between \$2 and \$2.5 million. The Regional Solicitation maximum award amount is anticipated to be between \$7 and \$10 million, depending upon the funding sub-category.

Regional Solicitation is one way the Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board prioritize and invest in roads, bridges, transit routes, bike paths, sidewalks, electric vehicle chargers, congestion management and commuter support programs, and active transportation programs and planning. Regional Solicitation happens once every two years and awards about \$250 million in federal funds. City costs would include a 20 percent match of the construction amount. Engineering, legal, administrative, and easement costs would also be the responsibility of the City.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

Based upon previous submittal requirements, City staff believe that an application will score well for 44th Avenue between TH 65 and Main Street for the following reasons:

- The roadway is listed in a Safety plan. Having a planning study completed greatly improves the score for the project.
- A concept layout has been completed, which demonstrates project readiness.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions
<i>(Briefly state the specific action staff is requesting of the City Council, if any. For example: provide direction, discuss options, or review information.)</i>
Staff requests that Council approves the initiation an application for Regional Solicitation funding on 44 th Avenue redesign between TH 65 and Main Street with the assistance of a consultant.

ATTACHMENT(S)

44th Avenue Concept Layout