



MEMORANDUM

MEETING TYPE: Board of County Commissioners

MEETING DATE: 1/31/2022

ITEM NAME: HSIP Application

SUBMITTED BY: Sky Tallman

SUMMARY:

Seeking BOCC support for staff to apply for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for sidewalk and safety improvements in Gardner. Funds will be available in 2026, and as long as all work is done within the CDOT right-of-way, there should be no County match.

Requested Motion/Action

- Motion to authorize County staff to apply for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for roadway improvements in Gardner.

Grant Program

HSIP is a federally funded program for making roadway safety improvements. Highway 69 through Gardner is a frequent site of speeding and crashes, and pedestrian safety is a concern. The grant would fund a sidewalk through the town and some additional measures to slow traffic and improve safety.

Application is for funding that would become available in July of 2025.

Financial Considerations

The program provides a 90-10 federal match; it is anticipated that the 10% match would be met by CDOT as all of the proposed improvements are within the CDOT ROW. CDOT allows local agencies to petition for HSIP projects in CDOT right-of-way, and the 10% match would only apply to the County for any work done outside of the Right-of-Way, which is not proposed in this project.

Total cost estimates for this project are \$802,829.

Our Project

The work proposed for this grant includes several Proven Safety Countermeasures identified by FHWA as project types eligible for this funding. These include constructing a multi-use path parallel to Highway 69 through Gardner, installing pedestrian-scale lighting, crosswalks, and medians at two locations constructed to create pedestrian crossing islands.

Additional safety features include: signage, street trees, a buffer zone between the sidewalk and the highway, on-street parking, clearly defined access points at driveways and intersections, a pedestrian crossing over the arroyo, and vertical barriers at the sharp curve in town.

Alignment with County objectives:

Constructing sidewalks or a multi-use path through Gardner will improve safety of motorists by serving as traffic calming, reducing speeds through a congested area and increasing the probability that speeds at the sharp curves in the road are taken at safer speeds, and by creating more clearly defined and visible roadway edges.

The project will also increase the safety and mobility of non-motorized users. The current situation is unsafe for non-motorized users, and as such also discourages active modes of transportation. Not only will non-motorized transportation be made safer, it will become a more attractive option to residents, students and visitors currently discouraged by the unsafe conditions.

Background

As Hwy 69 enters Gardner, there are no visual cues to drivers that they are entering a village and that slower speeds are required; there are no sidewalks through the village, and pedestrians regularly walk or bike along the highway. Drivers regularly speed through the village, putting residents and themselves at risk.

There is a sharp curve in Highway 69 in the middle of the village, which requires slow speeds, but traffic often speeds through the village, making the curve particularly dangerous. On the West end of Gardner, there is a curve in the highway that is associated with multiple crashes, as drivers regularly hit this curve at speeds too high to safely navigate the road. The property owner located at the sharp curve has had multiple vehicles crash into the building, and has installed large rocks between the road and the building to create an additional barrier.

There was a recent incident in 2022 in which a teenager was walking along the side of the highway and was hit by a vehicle, resulting in serious injuries. Had there been a dedicated path for pedestrians, this likely could have been avoided.

Key Words

HSIP, Multi-Use path, sidewalk, Gardner, Hwy 69