



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6620
February 4, 2025
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6620: Safe Streets and Roads for All Program Grant Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Safe Street and Roads for All Grant Program award and execute the agreements and amendments related to the grant program.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer Rebecca O’Sullivan, Transportation Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. USDOT / FHWA Grant Agreement under the Fiscal Year 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff is seeking authorization from the City Council to accept a grant award from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Safety Action Plan.

- In July 2023, the City applied to and was awarded a grant from the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to develop a Comprehensive Safety Transportation Action Plan (Transportation Action Plan) (Exhibit 1).
- The Transportation Action Plan will recommend projects and strategies to improve roadway safety on Mercer Island and development of the plan is anticipated for 2027-2028.
- The grant funds will cover 80% of the Transportation Action Plan project costs up to \$160,000 and requires a 20% City match of \$40,000.
- In 2024, the City was selected to receive supplemental funding through a 2024 SS4A grant to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan (PBF Plan).
- The PBF Plan update is planned for 2026-2027, ahead of the Transportation Action Plan. Findings from the PBF Plan will inform development of the Transportation Action Plan.

- The SS4A grant funds will cover up to \$320,000 of the PBF Plan Update and requires a City match of \$80,000. This second grant agreement will be presented to the City Council later this year for acceptance.
- The original grant and the supplemental grant are tied together. For staff to proceed with the obligation of the PBF Plan award funds later this year, the Transportation Action Plan award funds must be obligated.
- At the time these materials were published, federal grant funding is on hold, but staff recommends approving the agreement so that we are in a position to move forward with the funding if the freeze is lifted.

BACKGROUND

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program and appropriated \$5 billion over five years (2022-2026). The grant program is administered U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The grant program funds regional, local, and tribal initiatives that support the development of Transportation Action Plans to reduce or eliminate serious injury and fatal crashes.

The City applied for and was awarded a 2023 SS4A grant and a 2024 SS4A supplemental grant. The 2023 grant will fund the development of the City's Transportation Action Plan. The grant funds will cover 80% of the project costs up to \$160,000 and requires a 20% City match of \$40,000. Once the grant agreement is executed, the City has up to five years to spend the funds and complete the Transportation Action Plan.

In 2024, the City was selected to receive supplemental planning funds through a 2024 SS4A grant to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan (PBF Plan). The PBF Plan update is planned for 2026-2027, ahead of completion of the Transportation Action Plan. Findings from the PBF Plan will inform development of the Transportation Action Plan. The City supplemental grant award covers 80% of the PBF Plan costs, up to \$320,000, and requires a 20% City match of \$80,000.

The original grant and the supplemental grant are tied together. For staff to proceed with the obligation of the PBF Plan award funds later this year, the Transportation Action Plan award funds must be obligated.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The Transportation Action Plan will provide a detailed safety analysis for all roadways on Mercer Island, evaluating current conditions and historical trends to establish a baseline for motor vehicle accidents. This analysis will also identify contributing factors and crash types, categorized by roadway users, including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The Transportation Action Plan will recommend projects and strategies to improve roadway safety, including proposed timelines for each strategy. Once the Transportation Action Plan is completed, the City will be eligible to apply for additional grants to support project implementation.

The Fiscal Year 2023 SS4A grant agreement for the Transportation Action Plan is included as Exhibit 1 and requires approval by the City Council. At the time these materials were published, federal grant funding is on hold, but staff recommends approving the agreement so that we are in a position to move forward with the funding if the freeze is lifted.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps include the following:

1. City Manager signs the SS4A grant agreement.
2. Staff brings the 2024 SS4A grant agreement for the PBF Plan update to the City Council in mid-2025 for approval.
3. Commence PBF Plan update in 2026-2027 and adoption in 2028.
4. Commence Transportation Action Plan in 2027-2028 and adoption in 2029.
5. Incorporate prioritized projects from the PBF Plan and Transportation Action Plan in the City's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Safe Street and Roads for All Grant Program award in Exhibit 1 and execute all agreements and amendments related to the grant program.