



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
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AGENDA ITEM 7b
TAC Meeting
June 6, 2024

DATE: May 29, 2024
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Stephen Luther, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: **Update on US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Project**

INFORMATIONAL STAFF REPORT

Staff Summary:

In December 2023, HCAOG was notified that its application to the US Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) for the Humboldt County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan and Demonstration Project was successful. HCAOG is currently working on executing a grant agreement for the awarded \$480,000 in federal funding. The estimated timeline is to hire a consultant by September 2024, and complete a draft plan by November 2025.

The regional plan will provide a comprehensive analysis of countywide data and safety interventions, however there is a certain amount of overlap in the content and process already completed or underway with Local Road Safety Plans (LRSPs) and Tribal Transportation Safety Plans. As HCAOG prepares a request for proposals seeking consultants, we wanted to identify areas where jurisdictions may like to see an emphasis in the scope of work for additional non-infrastructure traffic safety planning work. The list of tasks below are areas where HCAOG can see a benefit of an additional regional focus. Additional comments from the TAC are welcome.

Consultant-led Project Tasks for Vision Zero Action Plan

- Countywide analysis of crashes, crash types, and contributing factors over 5-year period. Task will result in map of High-Injury Network and priority intersections/segments.
- Incorporate consideration of equity in planning process, conduct listening sessions with underserved communities, and integrate mapping of equity priority areas.
- Develop policies, processes and regional strategies with timelines, responsible parties.
- Organize and host educational public meetings in jurisdictions and communities (estimated 8 public meetings with in-kind support from agencies – see table below). [Potential to build off and add to STPG Vibrant Neighborhoods speaker series?]
- Design and implement communication strategy to build public awareness and familiarity with the Safe Systems Approach. Ideas include:
 - Develop regional Vision Zero branding.

- Continuation of “Go Slow, Watch the Road” campaign.
- Design, print and distribute educational materials.
- Develop press toolkit, engage local press and PIOs in training.
- Provide training to schools, senior centers, etc.
- Create a Vision Zero Data Dashboard and landing page hosted on HCAOG’s website, using SWITRS data to keep public updated on progress toward measurable achievements i.e. year over year reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
- Purchase an intersection traffic safety camera and software (e.g. Miovision Scout) for use by jurisdictions to conduct analysis at problem intersections. Results will be summarized by consultant and included to inform the Action Plan.

Demonstration Tasks (Stakeholders with Consultant Support):

The project award includes carrying out demonstration activities that will inform the Plan. This element was originally conceived as a series of short-term (days up to a month) demos to showcase and test various traffic improvements. These types of demonstrations have proven effective in generating public feedback and data, and they do require staff time and provision of materials that can be applied toward meeting our local match. Given the large grant award with a cushion for completing the work outlined above, we wanted to open the discussion to the TAC about the relative budget allocated toward the demonstration components. Eligible demonstration activities include interim quick-build type projects that still use temporary materials but can have a more immediate impact on street activation and last until a permanent capital upgrade can be funded. However, without specific projects or readily available estimates, we do not have a good sense of the budget. Ultimately, a Project Stakeholder Committee convened for the grant project will agree on what demonstration projects to implement.

Table 1 below shows the original project budget and staff’s initial revision. Feedback from the TAC on a reasonable budget estimate for demonstration activities would be appreciated. For reference, Table 2 shows the match support commitments from jurisdictions.

Table 1: Budget for Planning and Demonstration Activities

<i>Task</i>	<i>Federal</i>	<i>Non-federal</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Develop a new Action Plan	\$433,000 \$397,000	\$60,000	\$493,000 \$457,000
2. Carry out demonstration activities	\$47,000 \$83,000	\$60,000	\$107,000 \$143,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$480,000</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>

Table 2: Local 20% Match Support Commitments

Local Match Source	In-kind*	Cash	Total
City of Arcata	\$15,000		\$15,000
City of Blue Lake	\$2,500		\$2,500
City of Eureka	\$15,000		\$15,000
City of Ferndale	\$3,000		\$3,000
City of Fortuna	\$8,000		\$8,000
City of Rio Dell	\$2,500		\$2,500

City of Trinidad	\$1,000		\$1,000
County of Humboldt	\$20,000		\$20,000
HCAOG	\$20,500	\$29,854	\$50,354
Department of Health and Human Services	\$2,646		\$2,646
Total	\$90,146	\$29,854	\$120,000

Lastly, the SS4A program does include an Implementation grant program that jurisdictions may be interested in applying for. To be eligible for Implementation, a project must be identified in an eligible Action Plan that meets certain criteria. An LRSP can be used to self-certify an eligible Action Plan. Per the info from the US DOT below, while the HCAOG Regional Action Plan is in development, a jurisdiction that has a qualifying Action Plan may apply for an Implementation Grant. Any supplemental work, such as incorporating equity into the Plan, would be accomplished through HCAOG’s regional plan. The attached “Crosswalk” document was prepared by USDOT to show how required SS4A Action Plan components compare to LRSP and TTSP templates.

Implementation Grant Scenarios

Regional government (e.g., MPO, COG, RPC)	Local political subdivision within the same region (e.g., city, county, town)	Application options
Does not have an Action Plan in place. Would like to apply for a Planning and Demonstration Plan Grant.	Has a qualifying Action Plan in place. Would like to apply for an Implementation Grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional government may apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant. • The political subdivision may apply for an Implementation Grant for projects and strategies identified in the Action Plan. The application may also include supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities to inform the existing Action Plan. • If the qualifying Action Plan does not include all 9 elements in Table 1 of the NOFO or was last completed before 2021, USDOT requires the applicant to update the Action Plan.