

**Town of Lyons, Colorado
Board of Trustees
BOT Agenda Cover Sheet
Agenda Item No: X.1.
Meeting Date: 05 JULY 2023**

TO: Mayor Rogin and Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Lead Planner David Kimmett, AICP

DATE: July 5, 2023

ITEM: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LYONS, COLORADO
AUTHORIZING TOWN STAFF TO APPLY FOR A UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SAFE STREETS
& ROADS FOR ALL PLANNING GRANT TO BE USED TO
OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION IN ESTABLISHING A
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BASELINE AND CREATING A
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACTION PLAN
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN OF
LYONS

 ORDINANCE
X MOTION / RESOLUTION
 INFORMATION

I. REQUEST OR ISSUE:

SS4A Planning Grant:

1. Rationale in applying for grant
2. What grant opportunity will afford Lyons
3. Need for Board support of effort
4. Requirement of a 20% non-Federal funding match

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION / NEXT STEP:

Approve Resolution 2023-44 to authorize Town Staff to move forward with US Department of Transportation ("USDOT") Safe Streets & Roads For All ("SS4A") Planning Grant application process, which is due July 10th.

III. FISCAL IMPACTS:

The USDOT grant asks for \$150,000; the mandatory 20% non-Federal matching dollars requirement equates to \$30,000, which can be in-cash, in-kind, or some combination thereof.

IV. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The USDOT has issued a NOFO to jurisdictions across America to apply for the 2023 edition of the SS4A Grant. The grant has two component application paths:

- Planning
- Implementation

Before applying for an Implementation grant, a jurisdiction must first have a comprehensive transportation safety analysis and action plan in place. The SS4A Planning Grant represents the Town's opportunity to look at transportation safety holistically, and then in 2024 and beyond, have the necessary knowledge under our collective belt to apply for SS4A Implementation Grant opportunities.

The Grant does require a 20% local match, which can be non-Federal dollars and or in-kind contributions (e.g. staff time, Town resources such as meeting spaces, etc.). The minimum Planning Grant ask amount for 2023 is \$100,000, and Staff feels a \$150,000 ask is appropriate. This equates to a Town match need of \$30,000, again in-cash and or in-kind.

The objective of the Planning Grant is obtaining a transportation safety baseline for all modes of transport – pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles, etc. – with the US DOT's goal being that a local jurisdiction looks at VisionZero and transportation equity as key components. Staff has identified several important considerations that a consultant would study under this Planning Grant. Highlights:

- The known safety issues presented by being transected by US 36, SH 7, and SH 66, which in many places in Lyons are critical pieces of the local transportation network and which serve to effectively and unfortunately divide the town into several disparate pieces.
- Roundabouts at high-traffic volume chokepoints (e.g. US 36/SH 66, Main Street, Broadway, etc.)
- Increasing sidewalk coverage
- Augmenting bikeability
- Re-examining the one-way nature of both Main Street and Broadway
- Contemplating additional river crossings

The Grant application will be managed by Planner Kimmett. Finance Director Eyestone, Community Relations Director Mitchell, and Project Manager Sanders will assist Planner Kimmett should the application prove successful, and the Town is awarded the SS4A Planning Grant. The USDOT is expected to award grants in October of 2023, with funding dispersed within 12 months after announcing awarded applications.

The end deliverable – a professional consultant document – will be a document that will guide Lyons into a hoped-for more equitable, sustainable, and safe transportation future.

V. LEGAL ISSUES:

None.

VI. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

None.

VII. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:

Staff Findings of Fact

Staff finds that applying for the SS4A Planning Grant is a worthwhile endeavor.

We are heavily impacted by high-use roadways, and though thankfully we have had few deaths over the years, the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists on our three highways –

US36, SH 7, SH 66 – definitely imperils safe passage, either crossing them or walking/riding along them. This does not include contemplating local street safety issues, which would also be a part of the SS4A Planning Grant analysis.

Planner Kimmett used the USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Tool, a GIS-based method to search for any community's "Disadvantaged" status on multiple different metrics. The Lyons Census Tract (a larger area than just the Town boundary, but the smallest area that can be studied, incorporating roughly 4100 Town and Town-area residents) demonstrates several levels of Disadvantaged status. See attached document.

As mentioned, a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is a requirement should the Town wish to pursue an SS4A Implementation Grant in 2024 or beyond. Further, this plan will assist with other grant-funded opportunities outside of the SS4A sphere, be it with the USDOT, CDOT, DRCOG, Boulder County, or other potential grantors.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"I move that the Board approve Resolution 2023-44, authorizing Town Staff to pursue an application for a US Department of Transportation Safe Street & Roads For All Planning Grant, finding that such grant will assist in furthering the health, safety, and well-being of residents of the Town of Lyons."

ATTACHMENTS / REFERENCE:

Please find attached:

- Resolution 2023-44 – USDOT SS4A Grant
- USDOT Analysis of Disadvantaged Status for the Town of Lyons using USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Tool Findings Resolution 2023-44

For additional information, please refer to the USDOT SS4A Grant webpage at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>