



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 16, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Chief David Sprague, Director, Fire Department

Subject: Authorization to Apply for and Accept Funds from FY 2026 USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program for Planning and Demonstration Grant funding; accept grant funds if awarded; execute all related agreements and amendments; and appropriate and allocate grant funds for activities supporting the City's Street Trauma Prevention Program (STPP), Vision Zero, emergency response coordination, and related citywide roadway safety planning activities.

SUMMARY

The United States Department of Transportation released the Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity on March 27, 2026. The program provides competitive funding for planning, demonstration, operational, behavioral, infrastructure, and post-crash care strategies intended to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The proposed application aligns with the City's Vision Zero priorities, Safe System Approach, and the Berkeley Fire Department's Street Trauma Prevention Program.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY 2026 SS4A funding requires a minimum 20 percent non-federal match and allows federal participation up to 80 percent of eligible costs. Staff is applying for approximately \$3.3 million in federal funding. The time of existing staff dedicated to the grant will be used to satisfy the match requirement and no General Fund appropriation will be required.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Fire Department launched the Street Trauma Prevention Program (STPP) in March 2025 to integrate emergency response and Fire/EMS operational expertise into roadway safety planning and Vision Zero implementation efforts. Year 1 efforts focused on data analysis, operational gap identification, partnership development, project review, and cross-departmental coordination.

The FY 2026 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity places greater emphasis on public safety infrastructure, operational safety strategies, emergency response coordination, and improvements in post-crash care. Eligible activities include public safety dispatch systems, digital alert systems, pilot deployments, operational technologies, and multidisciplinary roadway safety approaches.

The proposed grant application would support:

- Full compensation (base salary and benefits) for a temporary Program Manager II Position
- Citywide safety action planning and supplemental planning activities
- Emergency response-informed transportation safety analysis
- Demonstration and pilot activities
- Operational and technology safety strategies
- Public education and stakeholder engagement
- Regional and academic partnerships
- Data integration and evaluation
- Blood Transfusion pilot activity
- Traffic Signal preemption “Green Corridor” pilot

Alignment with the city's strategic plan

The proposed grant application advances multiple City of Berkeley Strategic Plan goals, including:

- Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.
- Provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.
- Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.
- Be a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily accessible service and information to the community.
- Provide an efficient and financially healthy City government.

The proposed activities support Vision Zero goals, emergency response coordination, data-informed decision-making, community safety, and equitable investment in underserved communities.

BACKGROUND

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act established the Safe Streets and Roads for All funds to reduce roadway fatalities and severe injuries nationwide through Safe System planning and implementation activities. The FY 2026 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity includes Planning and Demonstration Grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000.

Applications are due May 26, 2026. The City of Berkeley is eligible to apply as a political subdivision of the State of California.

The proposed application would support the continued development of the Street Trauma Prevention Program and strengthen the City's ability to pursue multidisciplinary roadway safety initiatives and to secure future implementation funding opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Providing safe roadways for all road users, including active transportation (walking, biking, micromobility), inspires the use of multimodal infrastructure, supporting the City's climate and sustainability goals, and aligns with its environmental justice priorities.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommendation would allow the City to pursue external funding aligned with existing City priorities related to roadway safety, emergency response coordination, Vision Zero implementation, operational innovation, and community safety.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City Council could decline to authorize submission of the grant application. This option is not recommended because it would reduce the City's ability to pursue external funding supporting roadway safety planning, operational innovation, emergency response coordination, and implementation readiness efforts identified through the Street Trauma Prevention Program.

CONTACT PERSON

Chief David Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department, (510) 981-3473

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR FY 2026 USDOT SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) FUNDING AND ACCEPTING THE FUNDS WHEN AWARDED

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has released the Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the SS4A program supports local and regional initiatives intended to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries through planning, operational, infrastructure, behavioral, and post-crash care strategies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley launched the Street Trauma Prevention Program in March 2025 to integrate emergency response and prevention into roadway safety planning and Vision Zero efforts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed grant application would support citywide safety planning, emergency response coordination, demonstration activities, data analysis, and community engagement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application to the FY 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program and execute all related grant agreements and amendments if awarded.