



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: June 19, 2007
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means Budget Committee

Subject: Grant Application Submittal for the Safe Communities Program

Recommendation:

- a. Authorize Public Works to submit a proposal for a grant from the Safe Communities Program.
- b. Authorize City officials to accept the Safe Communities grant (up to \$50,000) and take appropriate actions to implement the grant, if awarded.

Previous Directives:

April 19, 2007 City Council - Authorized Public Works to operate the Bicycle & Pedestrian Ambassador Program if the City is selected.

Prepared by: Shaun Murphy, Ped/Bike Intern, 673-2335
Jon Wertjes, Director of Traffic and Parking Services, 673-2614

Approved by:

Steven Kotke, P.E., City Engineer - Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u>X</u>
Policy review Group (PRG)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u>X</u>

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain): *If the grant is awarded the appropriations will be implemented. If award is not made, no appropriation will occur.*
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals: Satisfies multi-modal transportation and safety goals
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

RFP for Safe Communities Grant Program

Background

Public Works just recently learned of this grant program opportunity that has a short deadline for submittal and award.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, through its Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), is requesting proposals from communities that are interested in building a Safe Community Toward Zero Deaths Coalition. The Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program has a goal of achieving zero deaths statewide, by building connections between government agencies and local organizations whose focus is traffic safety. Grants awarded through the Safe Communities Program provide assistance to localities wishing to achieve the goals of zero traffic deaths and greatly reduced traffic crashes. The Safe Communities Program has in the past awarded funds to educate drivers on the benefits of seat belt use, safe speeds, child safety seats, and sober driving. These educational messages address the top traffic safety concerns statewide.

The Safe Communities Program is seeking to fund activities for an upcoming 12 month period, with subsequent opportunities to reapply for continued programming. The amount of funding awarded is up to \$50,000 annually. There is no match requirement. An RFP has been issued and applications are due June 22, 2007. The Safe Communities Program expects to make their RFP selection on July 12, 2007.

Program Requirements

1. Complete a community needs assessment, which will identify top traffic safety concerns, including high risk crash locations or situations and their causes.
2. Propose a plan for documenting accomplishments. Specifically, benchmarks must be established for reducing types of crashes and/or changing behaviors which contribute to crashes.
3. Establish a steering committee which will meet at least 4 times per year, consisting of representatives from law enforcement, education, emergency medical/health services, and engineers.
4. Collaborate with other local Safe Community TZD coalitions.
5. Establish a Fatality Review Committee to review each fatal crash that occurred in the area.

City of Minneapolis Proposal

In Minneapolis, a significant traffic concern is the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, whose modes of travel account for nearly one-third of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in our city. Typically, Safe Communities grants have been focused on reducing fatalities and crashes affecting only motorists. As a result, Public Works will be working with the Office of Traffic Safety to tailor this program toward the specific needs of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The City will submit an application to increase safe driving behaviors toward pedestrians and bicyclist. The application also aims to increase safe walking and riding behaviors of pedestrians and bicyclists themselves.

Public Works has proposed to focus on specific locations where pedestrian and bicyclist crashes are high. Examples of activities include education through local community groups, partnerships with nearby businesses, and signs which highlight common accidents. We have also proposed to focus on general behaviors, which are the most common contributing factors toward pedestrian and bicyclist crashes. Examples of activities include education around specific topics, including crosswalk laws, the dangers of biking and walking while intoxicated, best practices to use when traveling with children, and common accidents to avoid. Certain messages would be targeted toward differing user groups, including motorists.

Funding for the Bike/Walk Ambassador Program was recently awarded to the City of Minneapolis through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program. The goal of the Ambassador Program is to increase the amount of bicycling and walking in Minneapolis and surrounding communities. The Ambassador Program will be better equipped to fulfill this goal and taken on the safety specialist need.

Therefore to carry out the Safe Communities grant, Public Works is proposing to link it with the Ambassador program. As part of the Ambassador Program, Public Works has already worked with Human Resources to identify classified positions that could fulfill the Ambassador Program. The positions that we believe are the best fit to assist with the Safe Communities grant are a Program Aide II (grade 6) or a Program Aide I (grade 5). If we are successful in the Safe Communities grant, this funding would be applied as a partial safety ambassador role that reports to the program manager of the Ambassador Program.

Staff Recommendation

Public Works seeks authorization to submit a proposal for the Safe Communities Grant Program and if awarded the grant seeks the necessary appropriations and authorizations to implement the Safe Communities Program grant.

Cc: Brenda Shepard, Human Resources

Attachments: None

Resolution

Amending The 2007 Capital Improvement Appropriation Resolution

Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the above-entitled resolution, as amended, authorize the finance officer if the grant is received, to amend the appropriation as follows: Increasing the PW – Transportation Capitol Agency in the Permanent Improvement Projects Fund (0300-943-9480) by and up to \$50,000 and increase the revenue source (0300-943-9480 - Sources 3210 & XXXX) by and up to \$50,000 based on the potential award from the State Office of Traffic Safety.