

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 18, 2022

TO: Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

FROM: Rebecca Morgan, Director of Projects and Partnerships

RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application

1 THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM

The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program is a discretionary grant program that Congress established as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA). The program allocates \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years, with up to \$1 billion for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2022. The SS4A Grant Program funds regional, local, and tribal initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on roadways, commonly referred to as “Vision Zero” or “Toward Zero Deaths” initiatives. Entities eligible for this grant program include metropolitan planning organizations, political subdivisions of states, tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups.

There are two grant types being offered as part of the SS4A Grant Program: an Action Plan Grant to fund the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and an Implementation Grant to fund implementation projects or strategies identified in an existing Safety Action Plan. MPOs are eligible for an award of up to \$5 million for an Action Plan Grant and up to \$50 million for an Implementation Grant. A 20 percent local match is required, which can include in-kind contributions or funding from non-federal sources.

For more information on the SS4A grant, visit the [USDOT's SS4A grant webpage](#).

2 PLAN TO APPLY FOR THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL SAFETY ACTION PLAN GRANT

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff and Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) staff are planning to apply for an Action Plan Grant on behalf of the Boston Region MPO to develop a Comprehensive Regional Safety Action Plan. Safety is an essential mission of the MPO and is one of the major goals identified in *Destination 2040*, the MPO's long-range transportation plan. The Safe Streets and Roads for All Program is also

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consistent with the work the MPO is already engaged in, including performance-based planning and programming. The MPO coordinates with MassDOT and the region's transit agencies to set short-term safety performance targets, which are updated on an annual basis; these processes involve monitoring safety-related data and considering factors that affect safety outcomes. A Regional Safety Action Plan will build upon the work developed as part of these existing programs. It will also allow the Boston Region MPO and the municipalities in the region to apply for the SS4A Implementation Grant funds in future years, helping the region achieve these goals.

3 REQUIRED COMMITMENTS BY MPO BOARD IF AWARDED

If the Boston Region MPO is awarded the Action Plan Grant funds, the MPO will develop a Comprehensive Regional Safety Action Plan. As part of this planning process, the MPO board will be required to adopt a resolution committing to the eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. This goal must be associated with either (1) a target date for achieving zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, or (2) an ambitious reduction of fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date with an eventual goal of zero deaths and serious injuries. The goals and targets will be based upon the planning efforts and recommendations from the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan study efforts.

4 APPLICATION PROCESS AND PLAN

MPO staff and MAPC staff are in the process of finalizing the Action Plan Grant application, which is due on September 15, 2022. The application includes the following:

- Safety impact and equity data, including the number of roadway fatalities, the five-year average fatality rate per 100,000 persons, and the percentage of population in underserved communities
- A map of the Boston Region MPO's planning area
- A 300-word narrative that describes the Boston Region MPO's approach to safety, which includes:
 - employing low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wider geographical area
 - community engagement with a variety of stakeholders
 - adopting innovative technologies and strategies to promote safety and equity
 - evidence-based projects and strategies
- An estimated budget for the development of the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- Required federal forms

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) plans to announce the award recipients by the end of the 2022 calendar year or early 2023. If the Boston Region MPO is awarded the SS4A grant, MPO staff and MAPC staff will procure

consultant services to conduct the majority of the work to develop a Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan with direction and support from MPO staff and MAPC staff. MPO staff's and MAPC staff's tasks will include the following:

- Grant administration: Administering the funds and ensuring contract compliance.
- Consultant procurement: Developing a Request for Proposal (RFP), reviewing submissions, and selecting a consultant team.
- Consultant oversight: Directing and overseeing the consultant teams' work to ensure that it meets the needs of the region, is consistent with the MPO's goals, and fulfills USDOT requirements for the grant.
- Action plan coordination and support: Coordinating with regional stakeholders and the MPO board supporting development of a task force, participating in community engagement and focus groups, providing data for safety analysis, supporting the establishment of goals, and reviewing consultant deliverables.

5 REQUESTED ACTION

MPO staff requests that the MPO board vote to approve MPO staff and MAPC staff's plan to submit an application on behalf of the MPO for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan Grant.

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) operates its programs, services, and activities in compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency), be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives federal assistance. Related federal nondiscrimination laws administered by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, or both, prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex, and disability. The Boston Region MPO considers these protected populations in its Title VI Programs, consistent with federal interpretation and administration. In addition, the Boston Region MPO provides meaningful access to its programs, services, and activities to individuals with limited English proficiency, in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation policy and guidance on federal Executive Order 13166.

The Boston Region MPO also complies with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, M.G.L. c 272 sections 92a, 98, 98a, which prohibits making any distinction, discrimination, or restriction in admission to, or treatment in a place of public accommodation based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or ancestry. Likewise, the Boston Region MPO complies with the Governor's Executive Order 526, section 4, which requires that all programs, activities, and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted for by the state shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran's status (including Vietnam-era veterans), or background.

A complaint form and additional information can be obtained by contacting the MPO or at http://www.bostonmpo.org/mpo_non_discrimination.

To request this information in a different language or in an accessible format, please contact

Title VI Specialist
Boston Region MPO
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116
civilrights@ctps.org

By Telephone:

857.702.3700 (voice)

For people with hearing or speaking difficulties, connect through the state MassRelay service:

- **Relay Using TTY or Hearing Carry-over:** 800.439.2370
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For more information, including numbers for Spanish speakers, visit <https://www.mass.gov/massrelay>.