



City of Newport REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

To: Council Chair Charles Holder & Members of the City Council
From: Michael A. Caruolo, Deputy City Manager *MRC*
Date: September 16, 2026
Subject: Authorization to Accept Additional FY-2025 FHWA Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Funds
Staff Presentation: Peter Bramante, Grants Officer (R&S); Patricia Reynolds, Director, Planning & Development; William Riccio, Director, Public Services; Tuuli Martin, City Planner

RECOMMENDATION:

The Grants Office within the Department of Resilience & Sustainability, in collaboration with the Departments of Finance, Planning & Development, and Public Services, recommends that the City Council authorize Newport to accept **up to \$6,015,225 in additional Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant funds** made available through the FY-2025 SS4A regional grant award to Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth.

Following Portsmouth's reduction in the scope and budget of its projects, and Middletown's decision not to pursue the available funds, Newport has the opportunity to add up to \$7.52 million in project funding to its allocation, **consisting of \$6.02 million in additional federal funds and approximately \$1.50 million in additional local match.**

If authorized by Council, Newport's total SS4A project budget would increase from approximately **\$5.77 million to \$13.29 million**, consisting of approximately **\$10.63 million in federal funds and \$2.66 million in local match.** The availability of additional federal funds presents a significant opportunity for Newport to **expand its SS4A program and advance transportation safety priorities already identified by the City.** Council authorization to accept the additional federal funds is required prior to submission of the grant agreement for FHWA review and approval.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The FY-2025 SS4A grant awarded over \$19M in federal funding to implement regional transportation safety priorities. **Newport's existing SS4A project allocation totals approximately \$5.77 million**, consisting of **\$4.62 million in federal funds and \$1.15 million in local match.** Department sponsors have identified potential CIP funding sources to support the expanded program, including @\$1.15M identified for Narragansett Avenue and City-wide sidewalk safety improvements, @\$500,000 in existing CIP funds identified for potential reassignment, and @\$1.008 million in future CIP funding requests.

Additional prospective projects will be evaluated from the City's existing pipeline of transportation safety priorities identified through the City's Transportation Master Plan, Vision Zero: Safety Action Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and other adopted planning initiatives.

Department Sponsors will work with FHWA to evaluate potential projects and develop a final scope and budget based on their strategic and technical merit, eligibility, readiness, and alignment with City and regional priorities prior to submission of the Grant Agreement to FHWA.

The grant provides a **five-year implementation period**, allowing the City sufficient time to complete project development, design, permitting, procurement, and construction in a coordinated and fiscally responsible manner. As the regional Fiscal Agent, **Newport must be authorized to incorporate the additional funds into the project scope and budget for FHWA approval.**

An executed agreement is anticipated in Dec. 2026 and will be presented to the Council for final acceptance and approval.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Resolution #2025-91 – Adoption of Vision Zero: Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

___ Currently Budgeted ☒ Requires an appropriation ___ No Fiscal Impact ___
(Formal request to be presented for approval at time of Grant Agreement adoption-anticipated in Dec. 2026)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Resolution
Summary-Proposed Match Sources

Finance Dept. Review: *9/18/24* Date By: *CTC for RJN* (if applicable)

CITY OF NEWPORT
R E S O L U T I O N
OF THE
C O U N C I L

No .

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded more than \$19 million through the FY-2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program to the communities of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth to advance regional transportation safety priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newport serves as the Lead Recipient and Fiscal Agent for the regional SS4A grant and is responsible for coordinating the regional scope of work, budget, and grant administration with FHWA and the participating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, additional SS4A funds have become available following Portsmouth's reduction in the scope and budget of its SS4A projects, and Middletown's decision not to assume any additional funds; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Public Services and Planning & Development have determined that acceptance of up to \$6,015,225 in additional federal SS4A funds would enable Newport to expand its transportation safety program and advance priorities identified in the City's Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero: Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of the additional federal funds would enable Newport to leverage significant federal investment to advance pedestrian, bicycle, sidewalk, roadway, and multimodal safety improvements, with a five-year implementation period provided under the SS4A Program; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Finance, Planning & Development, Public Services, and the Grants Office are working to identify potential CIP funding sources to support the additional local match requirements associated with the expanded SS4A scope, including approximately \$1.15M previously identified for Narragansett Avenue and city-wide sidewalk safety improvements, and additional \$500,000 in existing CIP funds identified for potential reassignment, and approximately \$1.008 million in future CIP funding requests; and

WHEREAS, a formal grant agreement has not yet been authorized by FHWA and is contingent upon full allocation of the regional award. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City of Newport, as Lead Recipient and regional Fiscal Agent, to incorporate up to \$6,015,225 in additional federal SS4A funds into the regional scope of work and budget and to submit the revised scope and budget to FHWA for review and approval. AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the Director of Finance, in coordination with the respective project sponsors, to identify and purpose the reallocation of approximately \$1.65 million in existing and identified CIP funds, including \$500,000 currently directed to other CIP purposes, together with approximately \$1.008 million in future CIP funding requests to be presented to the City Council for approval in conjunction with the formal, authorized FHWA grant agreement, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the formal SS4A grant agreement shall be presented to the City Council for review and acceptance prior to execution by the City.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

LAURA C. SWISTAK, CMC
CITY CLERK

Proposed Sources of Local Match Funding – SS4A Grant

The following table summarizes the proposed sources of local matching funds for Newport's SS4A project, including funds already approved, funds identified for reallocation or transfer, and future CIP allocation requests.

Funding Source	Status / Timing	Amount
FY-27 CIP – Narragansett Avenue	Approved – Existing CIP allocation	\$500,000
FY-27 Council Sidewalk Allocation	Identified for Reallocation – \$600,000 of the existing \$1.6 million sidewalk allocation	\$600,000
FY-26 Planning Funds – Dynamic Signs	Identified for Reallocation – Unspent planning funds	\$100,000
FY-27 Planning Funds – Wayfinding Signage	Identified for Reallocation – Unspent planning funds	\$100,000
FY-26 Planning Funds – Signal Timing	Identified for Reallocation – Unspent planning funds	\$ 50,000
Cybersecurity Reimbursement	Identified for Transfer – Reimbursement to be transferred from General Fund	\$300,000
Future CIP Allocations	Future Requests – Additional CIP funding requested for FY-28 to FY-31 (\$252,007 annually)	\$1,008,028
Total Proposed Local Match Sources		\$2,658,028