

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

**FOR:** Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** September 1, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Letters of Endorsement for Prince William County's and City of Manassas Park's Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Applications

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- 1. Purpose:** To seek the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of the letters of endorsement for Prince William County's and City of Manassas Park's FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Application for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority approval of the letters of endorsement for Prince William County's and City of Manassas Park's FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Applications for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.*
- 3. Background:** As is customary with NVTA partnerships, requests for endorsement are received from regional agencies and local jurisdictions embraced by the Authority. NVTA has received endorsement requests from Prince William County and the City of Manassas Park for their FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program application.
- 4. Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) created the first Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program to fund "regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries".<sup>1</sup> The program will make available up to \$1 billion during FY2022 and will provide \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next 5 years.

**SS4A Grant Program Criteria**

Major city planning organizations, counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments and multijurisdictional groups are eligible to apply for funding under the SS4A grant program. In addition, applicants must develop or update their comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan) that identifies the planning, design, and development activities that will ultimately help carry out projects and strategies identified in the Action Plan. While there are two types of SS4A grants, (1) Action Plan Grants, and (2) Implementation Grants, the program takes priority in working with applicants who have devised an Action Plan so that funding for implementation is maximized.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation, Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>, August 29, 2022.

- 5. Prince William County's Action Plan:** The SS4A Grant Program will help Prince William County devise an action plan designed to bolster street and road safety throughout its Towns and help support TransAction's regional objective of in improving the safety of the transportation network. As such, Prince William County seeks NVTa endorsement of their grant application. Prince William County will work with its towns to devise an Action Plan that uses data driven, holistic safety initiatives that identify traffic and pedestrian safety strategies, projects, and programs. Prince William County's action plan goal is to move toward zero deaths across the County.
  
- 6. City of Manassas Park's Action Plan:** The City of Manassas Park seeks SS4A Grant Program funding to complete a "Vision Zero" plan. This plan is aimed at eliminating fatalities and reducing severe injuries due to crashes citywide. The development of this action plan will involve leadership commitment and goal setting, community engagement and collaboration, as well as require a planning structure and the use of evidenced-based safety analysis. The City will seek equity analysis from resources such as EJScreen and Federal Highway Administration to identify overrepresented demographics in accidents to determine areas with the most need for road safety improvements. While these activities and commitments make-up Vision Zero, selecting and prioritizing projects and strategies during the implementation phase will also receive the same evidence-based approach.

**Attachment:**

- A.** Prince William County's Request for Endorsement Letter
- B.** Draft Endorsement Letter for Prince William County's Grant Application
- C.** City of Manassas Park's Request for Endorsement Letter
- D.** Draft Endorsement Letter for City of Manassas Park's Grant Application



August 17, 2022

Monica Backmon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)  
3040 Williams Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's SS4A Application for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of Prince William County's application for funding consideration under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All Program for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

The Safe Street and Roads for All ("SS4A") program provides funding for Action Plan grants to develop comprehensive safety plans. The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will use data driven, holistic safety initiatives to identify traffic and pedestrian safety strategies, projects, and programs to move towards zero deaths across the County. The plan will include Towns within the County, who are joint applicants of this grant application. Developing a comprehensive safety action plan is a local priority that will support regional goals for improving safety and is consistent with the objective of TransAction to improve the safety of the transportation network.

Federal funding through the SS4A program would greatly facilitate development of a comprehensive safety action plan and we thank you for your time and assistance with this request. If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me at (703) 792-6825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Canizales", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ricardo Canizales  
Director of Transportation



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Application for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am writing to express our full support for endorsement of Prince William County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. Prince William County's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will seek to benefit towns within the County, who are joint applicants of this grant application, in preventing roadway deaths and serious injury.

The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will use data driven, holistic safety initiatives to identify traffic and pedestrian safety strategies, projects, and programs to move toward zero deaths across the County. The plan is a local priority that will support regional goals for improving safety and is consistent with the objectives of NVTA's TransAction to improve the safety of the transportation network.

Federal funding through the SS4A program would greatly facilitate development of a comprehensive safety action plan for Prince William County.

Thank you for your consideration of Prince William County's FY2022 SS4A discretionary grant application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall  
Chair

Cc: The Honorable Ann Wheeler, Chair of Prince William County Government  
Ricardo Canizales, Director of Transportation, Prince William County  
Monica Backmon, NVTA Chief Executive Officer



## CITY OF MANASSAS PARK

City Hall • 100 Park Central Plaza • Manassas Park, Virginia 20111-2395  
(703) 335-8800 • Fax (703) 335-0053  
www.manassasparkva.gov/

**Mayor:**

*Jeanette Rishell*

**Vice Mayor:**

*Preston Banks*

**Council Members:**

*Alanna Mensing*

*Haseeb Javed*

*Laura Hampton*

*Yesy Amaya*

*Darryl Moore*

**City Manager:**

*Laszlo A. Palko*

**City Clerk:**

*Lana A. Conner*

**City Attorney:**

*Dean Crowhurst*

**September 1, 2022**

Monica Backmon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)  
3040 Williams Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of the City of Manassas Park's SS4A Grant Application

Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of the City of Manassas Park's forthcoming application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program.

The City seeks funding in the SS4A "Action Plan" track to complete a "Vision Zero" plan for the City. This plan is aimed at eliminating fatalities and reducing severe injuries due to crashes citywide. Action Plan development and delivery will include the following activities and commitments:

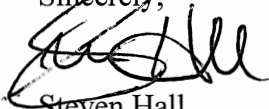
- The City will display a **leadership commitment and goal setting** process by which a timeline will be established for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through the Action Plan deliverables
- The City will actively create opportunities for meaningful **community engagement and collaboration**, including the creation of a SS4A Task force that represents diverse interests, and several opportunities for public input and feedback.
  - This will include web-based engagement, public meetings/forums, etc.
  - The City will continue to coordinate with the SS4A Task Force upon completion of the Action Plan for follow-up stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- The City will establish a **planning structure** including an internal team spearheaded by the Transportation Program Manager to oversee and contribute to the development and implementation of the Action Plan
- The City will use an evidence-based **safety analysis** approach to drive the entire Action Plan development process.
  - Specifically, the city will use data to examine trends of accident locations, conditions, and other factors that result in serious injury and death on its roads.

- With 41.45% of the population in an Underserved Community Census tract, the City will seek to identify demographics and road users that are overrepresented in accidents in the community. This information, along with expanded data collection and evaluation through resources such as EJScreen and FHWA socioeconomics and **Equity Analysis**, will help the City determine areas in the most need of road safety improvements to **promote equity**.
- The City will also use this same evidence-based approach when **selecting and prioritizing projects and strategies** for its Action Plan, using FHWA resources and proven safety countermeasures to increase safety and equity in a low-cost, high-impact manner throughout the community.
- The City will accomplish the above-referenced activities through development of a Vision Zero Plan to inform a future SS4A Implementation grant application.
  - This Action Plan will identify potential policy and process changes to the existing Transportation Program to ensure best practices and streamlining of priorities
- The City will track implementation over time through utilizing project delivery and initial schedule **progress and transparency** after the plan is complete. This includes continuing to engage with the SS4A Task Force, internal team, and local elected officials.
  - The City will track implementation items through project report developments and briefing to its Governing Body

A resolution of support for the application was approved by the City's Governing Body on August 23, 2022.

The Action Plan serves as a City priority that will provide benefits on a local and regional scale. Thank you for your consideration of support and if you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (703)-335-8809.

Sincerely,



Steven Hall

Transportation Program Manager



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NVTA Endorsement of City of Manassas Park's FY2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Application for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am writing to express our full support for endorsement of the City of Manassas Park's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. The City of Manassas Park's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan will help advance the City's completion of Vision Zero which aims to eliminate fatalities and reduce severe injuries due to crashes citywide.

The City of Manassas Park leadership will establish goal setting that enables the successful delivery of the Action Plan. The City will actively create opportunities for meaningful community engagement and collaboration, including the creation of a SS4A Task Force that represents diverse interests, and offer several opportunities for public input and feedback. The City will establish a planning structure including an internal team that will develop and implement the Action Plan and utilize safety and equity analysis to select and prioritize projects and strategies.

Federal funding through the SS4A program would greatly facilitate development of a comprehensive safety action plan for the City of Manassas Park.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Manassas Park's FY2022 SS4A discretionary grant application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall  
Chair

Cc: The Honorable Jeanette Rishell, Mayor of City of Manassas Park  
Laszlo A. Palko, City Manager, City of Manassas Park  
Monica Backmon, NVTA Chief Executive Officer