AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING   ( ) Discussion only
                                                                                          (X) Action

<u>FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION)</u>:   Community Development Department

<u>SUBJECT</u>: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Demonstration Grant Application

Background: Umatilla County is seeking USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration funding to implement several pilot or "demonstration" activities to assess the effectiveness of temporary safety improvements throughout the county. If awarded, SS4A funding will assist the county with piloting the Active Rural Transport Interactive System (ARTIS), which will be used to deploy innovative technology to identify deteriorating roadway conditions as they happen. This will allow County officials to issue proper safety warnings to potential drivers, dispatch the relevant personnel and inform decisions about future infrastructure development. Funding for this grant requires up to 20% local match that can be a combination of cash and in-kind contributions.	Requested Action: Approve SS4A Demonstration Grant Application.

<u>ATTACHMENTS</u>:   Demonstration Grant Overview

Date: (08/29/24)   Submitted By: Robert Waldher, Director

************For Internal Use Only************
Checkoffs:

(   ) Dept. Head (copy)   To be notified of Meeting:
(   ) Human Resources (copy)   Robert Waldher
(   ) Fiscal   Robert Pahl
(   ) Legal (copy)   Needed at Meeting:
(   ) (Other - List:)

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Scheduled for meeting on: September 4, 2024

Action taken:

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Follow-up:

Umatilla County, Oregon

Department of Transportation, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan and Demonstration Grant

Active Rural Transport Interactive System Pilot Initiative
Umatilla County requests USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration funding to implement several pilot or "demonstration" activities to assess the effectiveness of temporary safety improvements throughout the County.

Umatilla County is located in Northeast Oregon, where rural country roads and aging infrastructure are the only form of transport for its population. The County is home to 77,319 inhabitants, with a majority living in the towns of Hermiston and Pendleton. Despite its small size, the County has one of the highest rates of traffic fatalities in the entire country.

In May of 2023, the Umatilla County Commission passed a resolution that pledges the County to working towards the goal of zero deaths in the community. The County then received $400,000 in SS4A funding to create a comprehensive Safety Action plan. In coordination with this plan, the County seeks to conduct several pilot initiatives to inform their study.

According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (EJScreen), roughly 34.6% of the County's population is located in an Underserved Community Census tract. According to 2017-2021 data from NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), there were a total of 62 traffic fatalities in Umatilla County, with a fatality rate of 16.04 deaths per 100,000 people.

Rural transportation networks are critical to the region's economy by connecting the producers, processors, and markets that drive economic opportunity for small farms and agribusiness. The rural roadways of Umatilla County experience significant wear-and-tear due to heavy usage of industrial trucks, while accurate transportation data is currently unavailable. Typically, real-time data of road conditions are limited to highly utilized routes through ODOT or widely accessible consumer applications like Google Maps.

If awarded SS4A funding, the County will seek to alleviate these two major issues by piloting the Active Rural Transport Interactive System (ARTIS). The initial demonstration activities, in the areas identified as most in need, will deploy innovative technology to identify deteriorating roadway conditions as they happen. This will allow County officials to issue proper safety warnings to potential drivers, dispatch the relevant personnel, and inform decisions about future infrastructure developments. These activities are aligned with the DOT's ROUTES initiative, which seeks to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure by developing user-friendly tools and information, and ensuring that rural transportation infrastructure's unique safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness challenges are met.

The locations for these demonstration activities were chosen from extensive analysis of federal and state traffic data. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) website features a detailed tool for understanding the amount, locations, and outcomes of every motor vehicle crash in the state. Using this data, along with information collected from EJScreen and FARS, has

helped identify areas within the county that would benefit from enhanced real-time data collection using ARTIS. As such, the ODOT and federal data has been instrumental in location selection for demonstration activities.

Each piloting area is located within communities and census tracts that are federally defined as Historically Disadvantaged Communities. This way, the project strategically focuses on gathering information and distributing state resources to the areas of the County that need it most. These infrastructure investments seek to benefit minority and low-income residents of our community through increases in economic opportunity and competitiveness at the individual and county level.

The data below shows all crashes in Umatilla County between 2017 and 2021. The deployment of ARTIS will allow county, regional, and state officials to deploy resources and manage assets while prioritizing near-term and long-term safety improvements.

ODOT Crash Data

Year	Total Fatalities	Injuries	Total Crashes	Persons Involved
2017	5	633	1,041	2,384
2018	16	637	889	2,055
2019	18	607	939	2,246
2020	12	535	823	1,869
2021	12	657	1,001	2,214
Total	**63**	**3,069**	**4,693**	**10,768**

The County's ongoing commitment to transportation safety, demonstrated by the May 2023 resolution, previous SS4A funding, and continued engagement with the public, will continue through this SS4A pilot initiative. This approach will maintain accountability, progress, and transparency with all members of the community.