TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

Town Council Work Session
Agenda Item 2.a.

Agenda Item: **Safety Action Plan Goal Setting**

Meeting Date: August 6, 2025

Category: Discussion

Prepared by: Mike Shindledecker Transportation Engineer

Description:
This discussion item relates to the Town's ongoing Roadway Safety Action Plan.

Background:
The plan process kicked off in June 2025 and is anticipated for adoption in April 2026. As a precursor to this project, the Town of Herndon Council resolved to apply for a grant application under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) under Resolution 24-G-17 on March 26, 2024. The Town was successful in its application and executed a grant agreement with the Federal Highway Administration effective January 8, 2025. The Town subsequently retained the services of a consulting firm in June 2025 to aid in the development of the Safety Action Plan.

The SS4A program supports the USDOT National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths using a "Safe System Approach". Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructural, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.

This discussion, facilitated by the Town's consultant, will establish preliminary goals for the Town's Roadway Safety Action Plan. In addition to the requirement to eliminate all roadway fatalities, the resulting goals will include a target for reducing serious injuries, adjacent community goals related to safety, and a timeline to achieve desired outcomes.

- The initial request to Town Council to approve a grant application was presented on March 26, 2024: https://herndonva.portal.civicclerk.com/event/18/overview
- An update on the Safety Action Plan was presented with approval for contract award May 27, 2025: https://herndonva.portal.civicclerk.com/event/581/overview

Timing Impact:
Town Council goals for the Safety Action Plan should be set prior to conducting public outreach in Fall 2025. The draft Safety Action Plan will be presented to Town Council members in late Winter 2025/26 with anticipated adoption by Town Council resolution in Spring 2026. The project is on an accelerated timeline in order to prepare a potential Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant funding application in Spring 2026. This future grant request will be for either a demonstration or implementation project as identified in the adopted Safety Action Plan.

Strategic Focus Area:
Secure and Interconnected Community
Thriving Community

Fiscal Impact:
No direct fiscal impact is anticipated from this discussion. The Safety Action Plan and associated efforts (ADA Transition Plan and Corridor Safety Studies) are funded through an existing $100,000 local obligation against a $400,000 Federal grant for a total of $500,000.

Adoption of the Town's Roadway Safety Action Plan will identify future projects for consideration in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Legal Impact:
A Safety Action Plan prepared under the SS4A grant must adopt a goal to eliminate roadway fatalities and significantly reduce serious injuries. However, this discussion will not have direct legal implications until the plan is completed and adopted in Spring 2026. The Safety Action Plan may also recommend new codes or ordinances pertaining to transportation safety.

Staff Recommendation/Next Steps:
Staff recommends that Council adopt a goal to achieve zero fatalities on the Town's transportation network to meet the requirements of the SS4A grant. Staff recommends that the Council adopt a goal to significantly reduce serious injuries to meet the requirements of the SS4A grant, but does not have specific recommendation for a timeline. Town Council goals will be used to shape public engagement activities in Fall 2025. Staff will return to Town Council in late Winter 2025/26 with a draft Safety Action Plan.

Attachments:
1. Presentation (REVISED)