

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	September 30, 2026
SUBJECT:	Consider Directing Staff to Apply for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant for Development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Safety Campaign
AGENDA ITEM:	11
STAFF CONTACT:	Michael Kuker, CNU-A, Senior Transportation Planner Abigail Carlson, Assistant Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA's Regional Transportation plan includes two goals (Goals 1 and 8) that emphasize SRTA will work with regional partners to ensure a safe transportation system for the movement of people and freight. It is recommended that the board of directors consider a proposal to develop a regional comprehensive safety action plan and safety campaign, provide input on the draft scope of work, and direct staff to apply for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Provide input on the proposed draft scope of work for a regional safety action plan; and
2. Direct staff to apply for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant.

DISCUSSION:

Background – One of SRTA's responsibilities as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), is to track and adopt annual safety targets related to fatalities and serious injuries involving crashes with motor vehicles and non-motorized fatalities (Federal Performance Measure 1). Staff have observed a growing need for additional safety improvement efforts in coordination with other regional partners.

Over the last 10 years of complete data, the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) has recorded 2,037 crashes on the Shasta Region's highways, streets, and roads, resulting in 71 people killed and 2,668 injured (380 of them "seriously injured"). A serious injury, as defined by the FHWA, includes severe lacerations, broken arms/legs, crush injuries, significant burns, unconsciousness, and/or paralysis—but even a less severe injury can often be lifechanging.

A comprehensive planning effort is needed to help address these crashes and would position the region to obtain implementation funding for solutions under the federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program and other federal/state grant programs. The Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program has been identified as a potential funding source for this planning effort. A draft scope of work is currently being developed. Grant applications are due to Caltrans by October 9, 2026. If the application is awarded funding, work is anticipated to begin the fall of 2027 and finish by June 2030.

Draft Scope of Work Summary – The planning effort will analyze SWITRS and other available traffic safety data to identify significant corridors and intersections with high injury and fatality rates and the contributing factors for crashes. SRTA will work with a consultant and regional partners to identify effective improvements that address safety challenges and provide co-benefits that improve our communities, prepare a prioritized list of

projects to address safety needs, identify potential funding sources, and, to the extent possible, prepare preliminary project designs up to 30% at select locations. Additionally, a safety education campaign would be carried out in partnership with local agencies and law enforcement. The following tasks are proposed to carry out the project:

- Evaluate existing conditions by gathering traffic safety data; perform a literature review of local, state, and federal plans and priorities; and gathering data on current regional safety improvement needs.
- Analyze traffic safety data, including location, type of crash, direction of travel, and actions leading to the crash. Using this data, prepare a map of a high fatality and injury network. This network and the analysis of behavioral reasons for crashes will inform the countermeasures and prioritized project list.
- Engage with regional stakeholders and the public during plan development to ensure planning efforts align with residents' experiences, priorities, and safety needs.
- Develop and perform a traffic safety campaign informed by the analysis of existing conditions, the high injury and fatality network, and the behavioral reasons for crashes. The campaign will work in conjunction with the planning effort to discourage behaviors that precede crashes.

Examples of improvements funded by SS4A in other regions include:

- *San Benito County* – various improvements across region, including rumble strips, dynamic speed feedback signs, curve warning signs, upgraded pavement markings, lighting, high-visibility crosswalks, and other improvements;
- *City of Taft* – rapid flashing beacons, high-visibility crosswalks and other high-visibility infrastructure;
- *City of Clarksville* – high visibility speed enforcement; and
- *City of Natchitoches* – various pedestrian improvements, including a pedestrian bridge and refuge island.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may request revisions to the scope of work or direct staff to not submit the grant application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

If awarded, SRTA will form a project advisory committee with staff-level representation from the cities of Anderson, Redding, and Shasta Lake; Shasta County; RABA; and Caltrans District 2 to assist with the effort. Invitations will also be extended to the Redding Rancheria, Pit River Tribe, and law enforcement.

FISCAL & POLICY COMMITTEE REVIEW:

The Fiscal & Policy Committee met on September 21, 2026, to review and discuss the proposed plan and concurred with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff is still finalizing the scope of work but anticipates a project budget between \$300,000 and \$350,000. SRTA would need to provide a local match of 11.47 percent, estimated to range between \$34,410 and \$40,145. If awarded the grant, local match funds can be provided through a combination of state and local planning funds. Completing a safety action plan is necessary to be eligible for federal Safe Streets for All funding for construction of safety projects. The plan can be leveraged for other federal and state grants.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director