



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 2, 2024

TO: Transportation and Mobility Commission

FROM: Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development Department

RE: **Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant Award – Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Improvement Project**

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, Community Development Department; Kate Drennan, Principal Transportation Planner, Community Development Department; Ryan Lopossa, Streets and Transportation Manager, Public Works

Purpose

The City of Vancouver was awarded \$5,696,000 for the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) grant program from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) in December 2023 for the Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Improvement Project. This memo provides information on the grant program, background on how this project was identified, and outlines the specific improvements to be constructed with this grant funding.

SS4A Overview¹

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#) established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports USDOT's [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and the goal of zero roadway deaths using a Safe

¹ From [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program | US Department of Transportation](#)

System Approach. SS4A has provided \$1.7 billion in Federal funding to over 1,000 communities in all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Project Description

The City of Vancouver Project (the Project) will support the design and construction of multiple safety projects and strategies on Fourth Plain Boulevard, a central arterial and major bus rapid transit corridor in a historically underserved neighborhood. Fourth Plain Boulevard's high speeds endanger pedestrians, cyclists, and small mobility users and create hazardous conditions for all roadway users, including vehicles. The safety improvements will include enhanced pedestrian crossings using hybrid beacons and refuge islands, sidewalk infill and extensions, intersection redesign, and one Complete Streets treatment on NE Stapleton Road.

The total project cost is estimated at \$7.1 million. The federal grant will provide \$5.7 million in funding and the City will provide \$1.4 million in local match dollars, as the local match required for the grant is 20%.

Project Background

In September 2017, the City commissioned a [Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Implementation Strategy](#), as part of the City's [Fourth Plain Forward](#) work. The Pedestrian Strategy analyzed walk sheds, partnered and engaged with the community on their needs and concerns, and provided recommendations to improve the walking environment along Fourth Plain Boulevard and in adjacent neighborhoods. At this time, four out of the top ten most dangerous intersections in the City were located within the corridor, and two segments of Fourth Plain Boulevard are ranked as the second and third most dangerous roadway segments in the City.

In the 2018 [Transportation System Safety Analysis Report](#) (TSSA), analysis found that Fourth Plain Boulevard between Grand Boulevard and Andresen Road had the highest number of crashes per mile of all principal arterials in the City. The intersection of Fourth Plain Boulevard and Stapleton Road was identified as one of the top five unsafe intersections in the City based on crash frequency, fatal and serious injury crashes and combined pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

In August 2022, the City completed an updated the [Local Road Safety Plan](#) (LRSP). This crash data, from Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) crash portal was overlaid with the City's street network and Equity Index. Four out of the top ten most dangerous intersections in the City are located on Fourth Plain Boulevard. Similarly, two segments of Fourth Plain Boulevard are ranked as the second and third most dangerous roadway segments in the city. The LRSP tracks critical and fatal injuries, identifying trends in roadway design and behavior, high priority crash locations, safety

countermeasures, and recommended safety projects to address the crash factors into the [Transportation System Plan](#) (TSP) update.

These and other efforts resulted in the recommended designs and safety projects identified in the [Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Project](#), the Fourth Plain Pedestrian Action Plan, and the projects identified in the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application. The combination of changes implemented through the [Complete Streets Program](#) and new pedestrian elements installed with the support of the grant will create better access to, and along Fourth Plain Boulevard for all transportation users.

The City will also invest more than \$25 million in neighborhoods near Fourth Plain Boulevard with other federal funds received through the [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA). The Fourth Plain for All project team created a long-term investment strategy with the Fourth Plain community, called [Fourth Plain for All](#). The investment Strategy has two main objectives to create a comprehensive list of investment actions to be implemented in the Fourth Plain community over the next 10 years and to highlight specific priority projects that can utilize ARPA funding between now and 2026.

Project Type and Locations

Improvements for this Project to provide safer access to, and along, the corridor for all vulnerable users include:

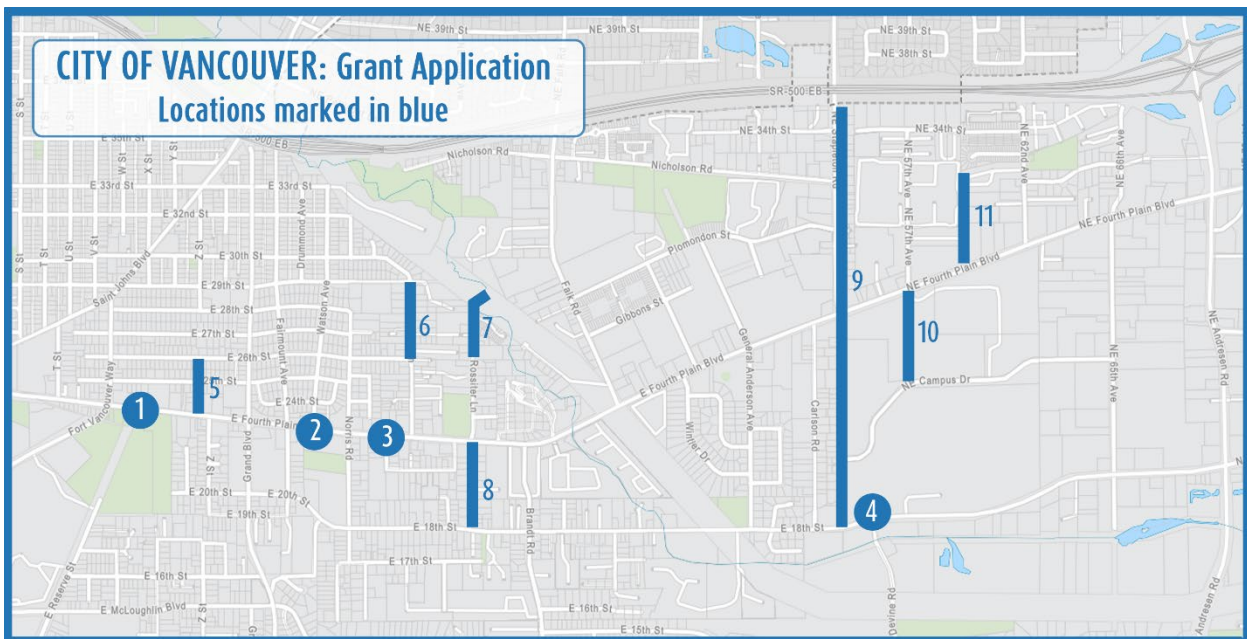
- Completion of three new enhanced pedestrian crossings across Fourth Plain Boulevard featuring Pedestrian Hybrid Signals, specifically HAWK signals and pedestrian refuge islands.
- Completion of multiple pedestrian improvement projects throughout the Fourth Plain area including three sidewalk infills, one sidewalk extension, three pedestrian connector pathways, one intersection reconstruction, and one complete street treatment on NE Stapleton Road.

Table 1: Project Name by Improvement

HAWK or Intersection Improvement	Mobility Projects
(1) Fourth Plain Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing	(5) Z Street Sidewalk Infill (Fourth Plain to NE 26th)
(2) Fourth Plain and Laurel Place HAWK Crossing	(6) Neals Lane Sidewalk Extension
(3) Fourth Plain and Watson HAWK Crossing	(7) Rossiter Lane to BBC Trail Pedestrian Connector

HAWK or Intersection Improvement	Mobility Projects
(4) E 18th Street and Devine Road Intersection	(8) Todd Road Sidewalk Infill (Fourth Plain to E 18 th St)
	(9) Stapleton Road Mobility Improvements
	(10) Fort Vancouver High School Pedestrian Connection
	(11) North-South Pedestrian Access (NE 57th Ave to NE 62 nd Ave)

Figure 1: Project Locations Map



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