



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – April 27, 2026
City Council – May 4, 2026

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

05/04/2026

Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

Agenda Item: Federal Funding Request – Phoenix Elementary Area Safety Improvements

Submitted by: Engineering Department, Logan LeTexier, PE (Civil Engineer, Senior)
David Kuharenko, PE (Assistant City Engineer)

Staff Recommended Action: Direct staff to submit application for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Weigel, second by Lunski to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action: Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to approve on consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries. These grants come in two forms Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. To be eligible for an Implementation Grant to construct safety projects, the applying entity needs to have adopted a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. City Council adopted the comprehensive safety action plan on August 4, 2025. Applying for this grant is the next step in the process.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the SS4A program came out on March 27, 2026. The minimum federal award for Implementation Grants is \$2 million, with a maximum federal contribution of 80%. The application is due on May 26, 2026.

Staff are recommending a project centered around Phoenix Elementary School. The work would include building a roundabout at the intersection of Belmont Road and 4th Avenue South, as well as adding bump outs and replacing the road surface on 4th Avenue and Chestnut Street adjacent to the school. The bump outs and geometry realignment on Chestnut Street would encourage traffic to obey the one-way direction and help one of the high-risk crosswalks remain safe. The current estimate for this project is \$3,500,000 with a 20% City share of \$700,000.

This project has been considered at a number of previous Council/Committee/Public meetings, some of which are as follows:

- July 20, 2022 – The MPO Executive Board approved proceeding with a joint applications for the SS4A grant with Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.
- August 1, 2022 – Grand Forks City Council approved applying for the SS4A Planning Grant and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPO and the City of East Grand Forks.
- August 2, 2022 – East Grand Forks City Council approved applying for the SS4A Planning Grant and MOU with the MPO and City of Grand Forks
- June, 11, 2024 – Public Open House
- August 4, 2025 – City Council adopted the Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- In addition, this project has been previously reviewed at a number of various committee meetings

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity was released on March 27, 2026.
- Funding for this project will come from Fund 4815 where \$620,000 is shown in the 2026 six year capital improvement plan in 2027.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Project Layout (1 page)
- Page 547 of the 2026 City Budget indicating funding source for this project (1 page)



**City of Grand Forks
2026 Budget**

**CIP (Continued)
Street Infrastructure Fund - Multi Year Plan**

| | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | Out Years |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| SOURCE/USE OF FUNDS: | | | | | | | | |
| Highway Users Tax | \$ 2,833,346 | \$ 3,326,300 | \$ 3,326,300 | \$ 3,326,300 | \$ 3,326,300 | \$ 3,326,300 | \$ 3,326,300 | |
| Legacy Fund Distribution | | | | | | | | |
| Sales Tax Revenue | 4,278,063 | 4,626,726 | 4,765,528 | 4,908,494 | 5,055,748 | 5,207,421 | 5,363,644 | |
| Additional 1/2% Sales Tax - Street Portion | 3,884,146 | 4,267,973 | 4,411,012 | 4,558,343 | 4,710,093 | 4,866,396 | 5,027,387 | |
| Prairie Dog Funding (direct distribution) | 9,514,479 | 2,500,000 | 820,664 | 2,500,000 | 820,664 | 2,500,000 | 820,664 | |
| FLEX Fund (direct distribution) | 1,035,877 | 288,024 | 288,024 | 288,024 | 288,024 | 288,024 | 288,024 | |
| Transfer Cash from Street & Water Sales Tax Fund (2175) | 1,953,591 | 500,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Interest Bonding Option | 83,500 | 147,111 | 82,573 | 35,910 | 102,097 | 78,496 | 59,223 | |
| Estimated Yearly Revenue | 23,583,002 | 15,656,134 | 13,694,100 | 15,617,071 | 14,302,927 | 16,266,637 | 14,885,242 | |
| Use of Bridge Reserve Cash (1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Est Carryover Beginning Yr | 8,350,000 | 14,711,084 | 8,257,259 | 3,591,006 | 10,209,713 | 7,849,599 | 5,922,335 | |
| Available for Expenditure | 31,933,002 | 30,367,218 | 21,951,359 | 19,208,077 | 24,512,640 | 24,116,236 | 20,807,577 | |
| USES OF FUNDS: | | | | | | | | |
| PRIORITY A | | | | | | | | |
| ANNUAL NON-PROJECT OPERATING COSTS | | | | | | | | |
| Interdepartmental Charges/Federal Match | 726,291 | 703,089 | 724,182 | 745,907 | 768,284 | 791,333 | 815,073 | |
| Street Mtce (General Fund) | 1,339,000 | 1,379,170 | 1,420,545 | 1,463,161 | 1,507,056 | 1,552,268 | 1,598,836 | |
| Set Aside Reserve for Bridge/Underpass Project | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | |
| Transfer to 4815 Bond Reserve (1.25X Bond Payment) | - | 437,500 | 1,000,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub-total Ongoing Obligations | 2,165,291 | 2,619,759 | 3,244,727 | 2,309,069 | 2,375,341 | 2,443,601 | 2,513,909 | |
| PRIORITY B | | | | | | | | |
| PROJECTS WITH FEDERAL FUNDING (LOCAL SHARE ONLY) | | | | | | | | |
| Regional Road Program | | | | | | | | |
| N 5th St (Gateway Dr to Demers Ave) Chip Seal | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 32nd Ave (I-29 to Washington) CPR & Microseal | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sorlie Bridge Joint Replacement | 15,227 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| S Washington (Demers to Hammerling) Microseal | 41,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Demers Ave (Central Fire Sta to 6th Ave N) CPR & Grind | - | 210,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| US 81 (US 2 to I-29) | - | - | 86,826 | - | - | - | - | |
| Traffic Signal Replacement (US 2 at 42nd, Washington, Mill Rd) | - | - | - | 50,000 | - | - | - | |
| Gateway Dr (Red River to I-29) CPR & Grind | - | - | - | 50,000 | - | - | - | |
| N Washington St (1st Ave N to 8th Ave N) | - | - | - | - | 1,300,000 | - | - | |
| US 2/Gateway Dr (I-29 to N 55th St) CPR & Grind | - | - | - | - | 50,000 | - | - | |
| S Washington St (Demers to Hammerling) Reconstruct | - | - | - | - | 1,580,000 | - | - | |
| Future Regional Project TBD (2030) | - | - | - | - | - | 500,000 | - | |
| Urban Roads Program | | | | | | | | |
| (Use of Bridge Reserve Funds) (1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Point Bridge Rehabilitation | - | 230,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| S 48th St (15th Ave S to 17th Ave S) | - | - | - | - | 3,185,000 | - | - | |
| S 48th St (11th Ave S to 15th Ave S) | - | - | - | - | - | 1,870,000 | - | |
| S 48th St (7th Ave S to 11th Ave S) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,850,000 | |
| S 48th St (Demers Ave to 7th Ave S) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,800,000 |
| Urban Grant Program | | | | | | | | |
| N 4th St (1st Ave N to 2nd Ave N) | 700,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| N 4th St (2nd Ave N to University Ave) | - | - | 100,000 | 702,845 | - | - | - | |
| Future Urban Grant Program Project TBD (2030) | - | - | - | - | - | 600,000 | - | |
| Transportation Alternative Program | | | | | | | | |
| Bikepath Development | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 | 100,000 | |
| Highway Safety Improvement Program | | | | | | | | |
| Speedminder Signs | 4,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| S Washington St & 28th Ave S Turn Lane Extension | 15,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| US 2/Gateway Dr & N Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements | - | 300,000 | 300,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| US 2/Gateway Dr & N 43rd St Intersection Improvements | - | - | 125,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| S Columbia Rd & 24th Ave S Intersection Improvements | - | - | 160,000 | 150,000 | - | - | - | |
| S Columbia Rd & 28th Ave S Intersection Improvements | - | - | 160,000 | 150,000 | - | - | - | |
| Future HSIP Project TBD (2029) | - | - | - | - | 300,000 | - | - | |
| Future HSIP Project TBD (2030) | - | - | - | - | - | 300,000 | - | |
| Future HSIP Project TBD (2031) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 300,000 | |
| Flexible Transportation Fund | | | | | | | | |
| 47th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 34th St) | - | 1,331,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| EDA Disaster Relief Program | | | | | | | | |
| 70th Ave N (N Washington St to 1/2 Mile W of 55th) | 430,000 | 1,100,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Safe Streets and Roads For All Program | | | | | | | | |
| Reconstruct 4th Ave S (Walnut St to Belmont Rd) | - | - | 200,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| Reconstruct Intersection of 4th Ave S & Belmont - Roundabout | - | - | 300,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| Reconstruct Chestnut St (4th Ave S to 5th Ave S) | - | - | 120,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub-total Projects With Federal Funding | 1,305,227 | 3,271,000 | 1,651,826 | 1,252,845 | 6,515,000 | 3,420,000 | 2,750,000 | 1,800,000 |
| PRIORITY C | | | | | | | | |
| OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE | | | | | | | | |
| Bikeway Capital & Mtce | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | |
| Industrial Park Rehabilitation | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | |
| Street Maintenance | | | | | | | | |
| Traffic Signal Maintenance/Controllers | 198,700 | 202,700 | 206,800 | 211,000 | 215,000 | 219,000 | 223,000 | |
| Minor Street Repairs | 360,000 | 370,000 | 377,000 | 385,000 | 393,000 | 401,000 | 409,000 | |
| Maintenance of Street Lights | 138,100 | 140,900 | 143,800 | 147,000 | 150,000 | 153,000 | 156,000 | |
| Minor Intersection Improvements | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | |
| Diamond Grade Reflectivity | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | |
| ADA Sidewalks | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | |
| Replacement Batteries | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| LED Street Light Replacement Program | - | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | - | 60,000 | - | |
| Arterial Street Lightning Maintenance (Conductors and Fixtures) | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | |
| Centrac Traffic Signal Software Renewal | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | |
| Pavement Management | 50,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 50,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| Intelligent Transportation System | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | |
| Transportation Studies & Consulting Assistance | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | |
| Quiet Zone Redundancy | 80,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | |
| Bridge/Box Culvert Rehabilitation | | | | | | | | |
| Bridge GF-08 University Ave/English Coulee | 30,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-11 Cherry St/South End Drainway | 35,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-14 6th Ave N/English Coulee | - | 250,000 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-16 S 34th St/English Coulee | 110,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Bridge 18-136-18.0 N 69th St/English Coulee Diversion | 60,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4,500,000 |
| Bridge 18-137-17.0 N 55th St/English Coulee Diversion | 80,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Engineering Design Services for 2029 Bridge Projects | - | - | - | 75,000 | - | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-10 S Washington St/49th Ave S | - | - | - | - | 80,000 | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-07 27th Ave N/English Coulee | - | - | - | - | 80,000 | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-05 Mill Rd/English Coulee | - | - | - | - | 80,000 | - | - | |
| Bridge GF-04 17th Ave S/English Coulee | - | - | - | - | 80,000 | - | - | |