

***Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts***

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Press Release

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Town of Weymouth Awarded \$336,000 “Safe Streets for All” Grant

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Weymouth, MA – Mayor Hedlund and the Weymouth Planning and Community Development Department are pleased to announce the Town of Weymouth has received a total of \$336,000 from the US Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) program.

The SS4A program grants go directly to regional, local, and Tribal communities for implementation, planning, and demonstration projects driven at the local level to improve safety and help prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation’s roadways. The funding helps communities address roadway safety through a comprehensive approach that uses all types of interventions, which aligns with the US Department of Transportation’s (DOT) National Roadway Safety Strategy. These funds will help tackle the preventable crisis of deaths on the nation’s roads through safer people, roads, and vehicles, appropriate vehicle speeds, and improved post-crash care.

A Vision Zero Action Plan is developed, approved, and is the foundation of the SS4A grant program. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users, and to ensure safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, where traffic deaths have been cut in half even while the number of trips increased, Vision Zero is gaining momentum across the globe.

"We are appreciative of receiving these funds to enable Weymouth to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan to identify roadway safety problems, given the fact that we have several state roads that commuters utilize to pass through Weymouth," **said Mayor Robert Hedlund**. "Between 2018-2023, Weymouth experienced 6,463 total motor vehicle crashes with a total of 97 serious injuries and 20 deaths – our goal with this work is to bring those numbers to 0."

After the Vision Zero Action Plan is completed by the Town, it will then apply for Implementation Grants through the US Department of Transportation to execute strategies or projects within the plan. Weymouth will begin work on the action plan mid-February 2024. An overview of SS4A grant program will be presented to Weymouth Town Council on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024.

"The development of the action plan will have a robust stakeholder engagement to ensure that all community members have a voice in developing plans, projects, and strategies, including residents town staff and the Town Council," **said Director of Planning and Community Development Robert Luongo**.

The Mayor will appoint a resident representative from each district of Weymouth for the "Safe Streets For All" Committee. The Committee will assist the Town in developing plans, projects and strategies to help us achieve Vision Zero. For more information on joining the "Safe Streets For All" Committee, please contact: ctocchio@weymouth.ma.us.

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