

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Habersham County SS4A Safety Action Plan (SAP)

DATE: February 17, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL-

OTHER

CAPITAL-

PRESENTED BY: Kimley-Horn

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: February 17, 2025

PURPOSE: Habersham County's Safety Action Plan is required to meet several criteria to be considered Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) compliant. One eligibility criterion includes the County publicly committing to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, including setting one or more targets to achieve significant declines in roadway fatalities or serious injuries by a specific date. As such, we have prepared the attached resolution to be considered for adoption of the Board.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and has \$5 billion in appropriated funds for the 5-year period from 2022 to 2026. This federal grant supports local jurisdictions' planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury for all roadway users, to improve roads and streets under local ownership. In 2023, the County received a grant to develop a Safety Action Plan (SAP), the completion of which makes the County eligible to apply for additional funds through the SS4A program to implement projects identified in the SAP.

An SAP is a document that provides local governments the means to make strategic roadway safety improvements. The plans identify the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and outline the projects and strategies to address them. SAPs not only assist local practitioners in understanding crash trends within their jurisdiction, but they also define a locally focused plan for practitioners to make informed, prioritized safety decisions.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- a. Between 2019 and 2023, Habersham County lost 8 lives and witnessed 54 people experience a serious or life-threatening injury due to traffic collisions.
 - b. The Habersham County SAP will present the County's commitment as well as its strategies to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries and will highlight needs for historically disadvantaged communities and the most vulnerable users of the transportation system.
 - c. The SS4A Grant program requires a 20% local match.
 - d. The SAP is currently underway. Public input may be provided here:
<https://www.habershamga.com/safe-streets-for-all>
 - e. The SAP must be approved by April 2025 in order to apply for an implementation grant funds.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve recommendation
 - 2) Deny recommendation
 - 3) Commission defined alternative
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: Motion to approve the resolution adopting a goal to work towards zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by:

Director: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:** _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager

HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A GOAL TO WORK TOWARDS ZERO TRAFFIC-RELATED DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES BY 2040

WHEREAS between 2019 and 2023, Habersham County has lost 8 people and witnessed another 54 people experience a serious or life-threatening injury due to traffic collisions; and

WHEREAS crashes that result in death or serious injury are not inevitable, but largely preventable, and the County acknowledges that the only acceptable goal is to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS creating safe, user-friendly streets will encourage active transportation, improving population health, air quality, access to healthy foods, and overall public well-being; and

WHEREAS the Habersham County Safety Action Plan will present the County's commitment and strategies to eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS the Habersham County Safety Action Plan will highlight needs for historically disadvantaged communities and the most vulnerable users of the transportation system;

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve and adopt the following:

1. Habersham County hereby establishes a goal of reducing traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 50% by the year 2030, as compared to the year 2023, and
2. Habersham County hereby establishes a goal of working towards zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by the year 2040, and
3. Habersham County is dedicated to measuring the progress of this goal and will provide quantitative metrics that are reported with future updates of the Safety Action Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners for Habersham County, Georgia this 17th day of February, 2025.

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS