



**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.**  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD**  
*Mayor*

City Hall, One Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY, 10550  
(914) 840-4029 or (914) 699-7230

**JAMES RAUSSE, FAICP, WEDG**  
*Commissioner*

December 16, 2024

The Honorable City Council  
City Hall  
1 Roosevelt Square  
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Re: Request for the Mount Vernon City Council to enact legislation to authorize the Mayor to accept a \$296,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant from the US Department of Transportation's SS4A Program. For approval at the December 23, 2024, City Council meeting.**

Honorable City Council Members:

I am submitting this letter to respectfully request the City Council approve legislation to authorize the Mayor to accept a \$296,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant from the US Department of Transportation. This grant will support the creation of a Road Safety Action Plan for the city. The Department of Planning and Community Development and Department of Public Works will collaborate to create this study.

The City of Mount Vernon seeks to create a Road Safety Action Plan as an important first step that will contribute to meeting the goals of a zero-fatality city. Local data shows an increasing need for a Safety Action Plan. Mount Vernon experienced a 19% annual increase in traffic accidents in 2022 (Fire Department of Mount Vernon, 2023).

The scope of this project is the preparation and adoption of a Road Safety Action Plan that meets the requirements as set forth by USDOT's SS4A program. The City will engage the services of a qualified consultant to prepare the Safety Action Plan. The specific project tasks include:

- Create a Road Safety Task Force comprised of staff, key stakeholders, and selected Mount Vernon residents to assist in the preparation and recommendations for the plan.
- Collect and map roadway data to provide an in-depth understanding of the current conditions. Incident data from the Fire and Police departments will be incorporated.
- Conduct a robust community engagement effort with stakeholders and the public.
- Prepare a comprehensive analysis using the collected data and community input to identify specific locations or conditions of greater risk within the City. Components of this analysis will include safety, equity, and existing policy and process.

*"The Jewel of Westchester"*



The legislation should include authorization for the Office of the Comptroller to accept the grant into a revenue code to be determined by the finance office.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant has a matching funds requirement of \$74,000 which will come from the Department of Public Works A5110-433 expense code.

The revenue code to accept the funds will be created by the Office of the Comptroller after passage.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Rausse".

James Rausse, FAICP, WEDG  
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Damani Bush".

Damani Bush, Commissioner  
Department of Public Works

cc: Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard  
Comptroller Darren M. Morton  
Malcolm Clark, Chief of Staff  
Corporation Counsel  
File