

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION NO. R26-74**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE LETTER OF FUNDING COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT OF THE HOWARD BOULEVARD AND DOWNTOWN CORRIDORS, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Nebraska, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, indicates that the Howard Boulevard corridor from 33rd Avenue to 23rd Street and Downtown business district corridors on 13th and 14th Streets from 23rd to 33rd Avenues are safety hazards in the City SS4A High Priority Network; and,

WHEREAS, the City is eligible in the notice of funding opportunity to submit an application for the Howard Boulevard: Safer Streets, Stronger Community, SS4A Implementation Grant for improvements in the designed safety hazards areas; and

WHEREAS, the City is working with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Infrastructure Hub and NDOT consultant HDR Engineering on submitting the SS4A Implementation grant application; and

WHEREAS, letters of support are being obtained from State of Nebraska congressional delegation; Nebraska Department of Transportation; and project area schools, businesses and residences; for submittal with the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the SS4A Implementation grant provides a City funding commitment to show support of the City in the form of this letter of funding commitment; and

WHEREAS, the estimated project cost is \$19,360,200 with a City SS4A Implementation grant request of \$15,488,160 and a local commitment of \$3,872,040 from City allocations of state and non-federal dollars.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, that authorization for the mayor to sign the letter of funding commitment to the United States Department of Transportation for the SS4A Implementation grant of the Howard Boulevard and Downtown corridors, is hereby approved and the mayor is authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the same on behalf of the City of Columbus.

This resolution shall repeal all resolutions or portions thereof in conflict herewith.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY



Accountability - Dedication  
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 13, 2026  
**TO:** Tara Vasicek, City Administrator  
**FROM:** Richard J. Bogus, City Engineer  
**RE:** Letter of Funding Commitment - Howard Boulevard and Downtown: Safer Streets, Stronger Community, SS4A Implementation Grant Application

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend approval of the authorization for the mayor to sign the letter of funding commitment to the United State Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation grant for the Howard Boulevard and Downtown, Safer Streets, Stronger Community project.

**DISCUSSION:**

The **Howard Boulevard: Safer Streets, Stronger Community** is a safety and connectivity-focused project that will revitalize the Howard Boulevard corridor with improvements that will reduce the potential for fatal and serious injury crashes, provide safe facilities for families and children traveling to and from school, and improve local community connectivity to businesses for our small, rural Nebraska city. A key corridor identified during Columbus' Comprehensive Safety Action Plan work in 2025, Howard Boulevard is an important community corridor that connects residents with Columbus' downtown business district and serves a mix of businesses, parks, churches, and two elementary schools. The proposed improvements will improve traffic flow, reduce the likelihood of serious crashes, and introduce enhanced and safer walking facilities for neighborhood families needing access to schools and businesses, creating reliable access where it does not exist today. The total estimated project cost is \$19,360,200 with the City submitting a grant request of \$15,488,160.

The City of Columbus local commitment is \$3,872,040 to deliver this project. These matching funds will include contributions from the City's allocations of Federal Funds Purchase Program and established city and state transportation budgets. All non-federal funding is fully committed and falls within each partner's existing programming authority.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total estimated project cost is \$19,360,200 with a grant request of \$15,488,160. The City funding would only be required if the SS4A Implementation grant is obtained and upon approval of the NDOT-City Program Agreement. The City commitment would be \$3,872,040 (20 percent) to be obtained from City allocations of State and non-federal dollars.

**ALTERNATIVE:**

Do not approve.

**SIGNATURE:**

By: Richard J. Bogus

Approved By: [Signature]

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Honesty - Integrity - Respect**

Mayor James B. Bulkley  
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Columbus, NE 68601  
402-563-4837  
[www.columbusne.us](http://www.columbusne.us)

May 18, 2026

SS4A Grant Selection Committee  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Funding Commitment City of Columbus, Howard Boulevard: Safer Streets, Stronger Community, SS4A Implementation Grant Application

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation SS4A Grant Selection Committee,

The **Howard Boulevard: Safer Streets, Stronger Community** is a safety and connectivity-focused project that will revitalize the Howard Boulevard corridor with improvements that will reduce the potential for fatal and serious injury crashes, provide safe facilities for families and children traveling to and from school, and improve local community connectivity to businesses for our small, rural Nebraska city. A key corridor identified during Columbus' Comprehensive Safety Action Plan work in 2025, Howard Boulevard is an important community corridor that connects residents with Columbus' downtown business district and serves a mix of businesses, parks, churches, and two elementary schools. The proposed improvements will improve traffic flow, reduce the likelihood of serious crashes, and introduce enhanced and safer walking facilities for neighborhood families needing access to schools and businesses, creating reliable access where it does not exist today. This project will emphasize maintaining high levels of freight traffic on efficient state routes while focusing on supporting economic vitality and maintaining neighborhood safety. The total estimated project cost is \$19,360,200 with the City of Columbus submitting a **SS4A request of \$15,488,160**. Without an investment from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), this generational investment in Columbus is not possible.

As the USDOT considers applications for SS4A Discretionary Grants, the **City of Columbus wishes to acknowledge a local commitment of \$3,872,040** to deliver this project. These matching funds will include contributions from the City of Columbus' allocations of Federal Funds Purchase Program (State dollars) and established city and state transportation budgets. All non-federal funding is fully committed and falls within each partner's existing programming authority.

**This local commitment is representative of an 80 percent federal/20 percent local cost share and is evidence of our dedication** to our community and our planned future through the delivery of the Howard Boulevard: Safer Streets, Stronger Community project.

Sincerely,

Mayor James B. Bulkley  
City of Columbus, NE