



George County Board of Supervisors
Community Development Office
Ken Flanagan, Director
Office: 601-247-2104
Email: kflanagan@georgecountymiss.gov

County holds Community Meeting to review SS4A grant application

Release: June 27, 2023

The outside temperature was still hovering around 90 degrees as the Benndale Community Center opened its doors for the County's Community Meeting about the "Safe Streets for All" road grant on Tuesday night.

Residents found it much more comfortable inside the center; where detailed updates took place on federal infrastructure funding at this casual come-and-go style meeting.

"In prep for the meeting County crews turned on the AC unit hours before the event. And we had someone watching the front door to keep it from staying open too long," said Alison Mitchell, County Facilities Coordinator and Purchase Clerk. "It was hot out there and we tried to keep it cool in here."

Over the course of two hours, dozens of residents attended the County's first ever community meeting about the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) road grant.

The George County Board of Supervisors is again applying for the SS4A Grant to improve both Salem School Road and Vestry Road with roadway widening, asphalt paving, multiple bridge improvements, and increased safety measures.

"This is just over a \$5.5 million grant request. If approved, it will be a major road improvement project off Highway 57 with benefits for the entire west side of the County," explained Ken Flanagan, County Economic Development Director.

"There is a required 20 percent match in County funds for this grant application. Because of that, the Supervisors wanted to reach out, update, and get residents' feedback on this key District 4 and District 5 project."

The SS4A Community Meeting featured pre-engineering road maps, proposed scopes of work, and cost estimates for both Salem School and Vestry Road stages of the project.



expanding Community outreach.



The County's Community Meeting featured a short presentation on the SS4A program and the County's 2023 application.

“Another element of the meeting was a new public survey on driving and roadway safety. The one page survey covers a resident’s primary modes of transportation, ranking of factors for local traffic accidents, and areas for safety improvement,” Flanagan said.

The County created a new website page for the SS4A Grant. Everything presented at the community meeting (road maps, project costs, survey) is available at www.georgecountymys/newsletter .

The possible SS4A Grant funds are part of the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill” created by the US Congress last year.

The County applied for the SS4A Grant

for the combined Salem School Road and Vestry Road Project in 2022.

The County’s grant application advanced to the final round in Jan. 2023 and received a “Recommended” rating from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, but did not receive federal funding.

The County took part in two follow-up grant sessions offered by the U.S. DOT to find ways to improve the application’s score. The first suggestion was to increase public information about the federal SS4A Grant program and the County’s grant application through a community meeting.

The second suggestion was a public safety survey about basic transportation patterns and trends in George County.

All the feedback from the community meeting and the public survey will be included in the 2023 SS4A Grant application. The County’s deadline to submit the application is mid-July. The first stage of grant approval is in November or December.

