

RESOLUTION 26-039

ADOPTING RESOLUTION FOR THE BROOKINGS AREA SAFETY ACTION PLAN (SAP) AND 2050 BROOKINGS VISION ZERO SAFETY GOAL COMMITMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brookings, South Dakota (the "City"), as follows:

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require all states to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) which provides a comprehensive framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways; and

WHEREAS, recent safety data in South Dakota shows between 2019 and 2023 annual traffic fatalities have increased 38% and serious injuries have increased 10%; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is acting in cooperation with local communities to alter this trend through development and adoption of the 2024 South Dakota SHSP, a multi-disciplinary and data-driven effort to reduce fatalities and serious injuries across all public roads in South Dakota with goals to reduce traffic fatalities to 100 or fewer and serious injuries by 400 or fewer by 2029 (30% reduction); and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings and surrounding area experienced 4 fatal and 17 serious injury crashes between January 2019 and June 2024 with 259 overall crashes resulting in an injury during this timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings, in conjunction with surrounding agencies including the City of Aurora, Brookings County, Brookings Municipal Utilities, South Dakota State University (SDSU), and the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) performed a safety analysis for Brookings area utilizing crash records and traffic data consistent with the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program guidelines as part of the Brookings Area Transportation Plan (BATP); and

WHEREAS, the Brookings Area Safety Action Plan (SAP) study area consists of all State, County, Township, and City owned roads, except Interstate 29, within the BATP study area boundaries; and

WHEREAS, based on the safety analysis, the Brookings Area SAP was prepared with an aim to reduce and eliminate fatal and serious injuries across all roadway users in the City of Brookings and surrounding growth areas including vulnerable road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and personal conveyance device users), transit riders, and motorists; and

WHEREAS, one of the eight required components of a SS4A SAP is "Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting" towards an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries and the proposed Brookings Area SAP consists of policy and project recommendations to achieve a long-term goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2050, consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe System Approach (SSA), also adopted by the SDDOT in the 2024 South Dakota SHSP and 2023 South Dakota Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA), and Vision Zero which align with best practices nationally to prioritize human life and creating a safe transportation network for all users; and

WHEREAS, the Brookings Area SAP will meet the requirements to allow the City of Brookings to apply for Implementation Grants from the USDOT SS4A discretionary grant program to fund improvements and strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries of all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds the proposed Brookings Area SAP is based on federal, state, and local standards and provides for the health, safety, and welfare of the community and will support and guide the City's planning, investment, and policy decisions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council hereby authorizes the following items:

1. The City of Brookings hereby commits to the '2050 Brookings Vision Zero', a long-term goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries by 2050 within the City and surrounding growth areas. The City pledges to use its resources, influence, and partnerships to make significant strides towards this outcome.
2. The City of Brookings recognizes that a share of the fatal and/or serious injury crashes within the surrounding Brookings area, occur on other jurisdictional roadways. Coordination with partners at the City of Aurora, Brookings County, SDSU, and SDDOT will be necessary to achieve a goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Per the SAP, the City will focus and prioritize safety improvement locations within city limits and update the plan upon relevant roadway jurisdictional transfers.
3. The City of Brookings will strive to make progress toward the stated reduction targets by working within the framework of the Brookings Area SAP to achieve the goals, and it will monitor progress annually and adjust the plan as necessary to maintain momentum toward the ultimate goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries.
4. The City of Brookings hereby approves and adopts the proposed Brookings Area SAP in conjunction with the Brookings Area Transportation Plan (BATP) and designates the Mayor to act as signatory in connection with future SS4A grant applications and related forms and to provide such additional information as may be required by the USDOT.

This Resolution shall be effective after its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED and APPROVED this 23rd day of June, 2026.

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SD

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Foster, City Clerk