



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Community & Economic Development

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DATE: May 13, 2024

RE: New Haven, IN SS4A Grant Application

New Haven, Indiana, located in Allen County, is seeking funds through the Safe Streets and Roads for All initiative to create a comprehensive Safety Action Plan. With a fast-growing population of over 16,000 people, New Haven faces considerable challenges in ensuring that its streets are safe and accessible to all members of the community. This grant proposal aims to bolster community resilience by prioritizing safety through pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, efficient public transit system, and accessible cycling routes. By fostering social cohesion, promoting active transportation, and mitigating traffic hazard, the initiative seeks to ensure the safety and prosperity of all residents.

Selection Criterion #1: Safety Impact

The population estimate of New Haven City from the 2020 census was 15,609 people¹. According to the Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool (FIRST), seven people were killed in motor-vehicle involved roadway fatalities from 2017 - 2021. Using the most recent data available in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) from 2018 - 2022, this number increases to nine people. Using the 2020 Census population estimate as well as the data of persons killed in fatal crashes, the average annual fatality rate per 100,000 is calculated at 8.97 using 2017 - 2021 data. However, using the more recent 2018 - 2022 time frame, this shows an increase in the average annual fatality rate per 100,000 to 11.53. This could potentially be attributed to the significant population growth in recent years. Analysis of crash data from 2019 to 2023 indicates a notable clustering of severe injury crashes along W State Road 930.

Selection Criterion #2: Equity

The Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETC) shows that around 40% of New Haven's census tracts are classified as Disadvantaged Census Tracts from the DOT national data. This accounts for 6,400 people, or 41.8% of the population living in disadvantaged areas. The census tracts were selected to reflect the city limits and population distribution as closely as possible. Similarly using the ETC tool, there are several other ways to measure transportation disadvantaged communities. Although overall only 1.28% of households have no vehicle, breaking the area into census tracts reveals regional inequalities. The westernmost tract has almost 13% of households without access to a vehicle, whereas in the southernmost tract there were zero households without a vehicle. This shows the unique distribution and inequity that will be factored into the citywide Safety Action Plan.

Selection Criterion #3: Additional Safety Context

While the Allen County plan lays a strong foundation for regional roadway safety, New Haven's distinct characteristics and shifting demographics call for a separate, targeted safety action plan. The city's recent expansion, characterized by a notable uptick in residential construction, population growth, and increased traffic from additional workers, has introduced unique safety challenges not covered in the broader county plan. Additionally, New Haven's community demographics and socioeconomic factors differ from those of Allen County, influencing the types of safety interventions and outreach initiatives most effective within the city. Assessing the area's specific needs at the city level ensures efficient service delivery to residents and complements the Allen County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "City and Town Population Totals: 2020-2022." Census.Gov, 13 June 2023, www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-total-cities-and-towns.html.

completed in 2023. Collaboration with the Indiana Department of Transportation concerning two major thoroughfares integrated into the state and federal highway system is also vital. This grant application seeks funding to develop a comprehensive Safety Action Plan tailored to New Haven's distinct requirements, aiming to address these critical concerns and enhance roadway safety for all residents.

Growth

In the past four years, the city of New Haven has experienced a remarkable surge in growth. With an influx of new residents, the city has undergone an expansion that is predicted to continue in the coming decades. According to building permit data, new home construction has hit an all-time high, reflecting a fast-growing community. Notably, the past year alone has seen a surge in residential development, surpassing the collective growth of the previous decade². Although the 2020 census recorded a population ³of 15,609, more recent surveys estimate that in the years since there has been a 3% increase closer to 16,000⁴.

Pedestrian Emphasis

The Safety Action Plan for New Haven seeks to elevate transportation safety, accessibility, and equity for all residents by prioritizing pedestrian safety and promoting active transportation. This comprehensive plan aims to establish an interconnected network of facilities for walking and biking, enhance existing infrastructure, deploy traffic calming measures, and advocate for pedestrian-friendly policies. By integrating the complete streets model into new development and redevelopment projects, the plan will serve as a roadmap for implementing targeted interventions to create a safer community for everyone.

Overview of Methods

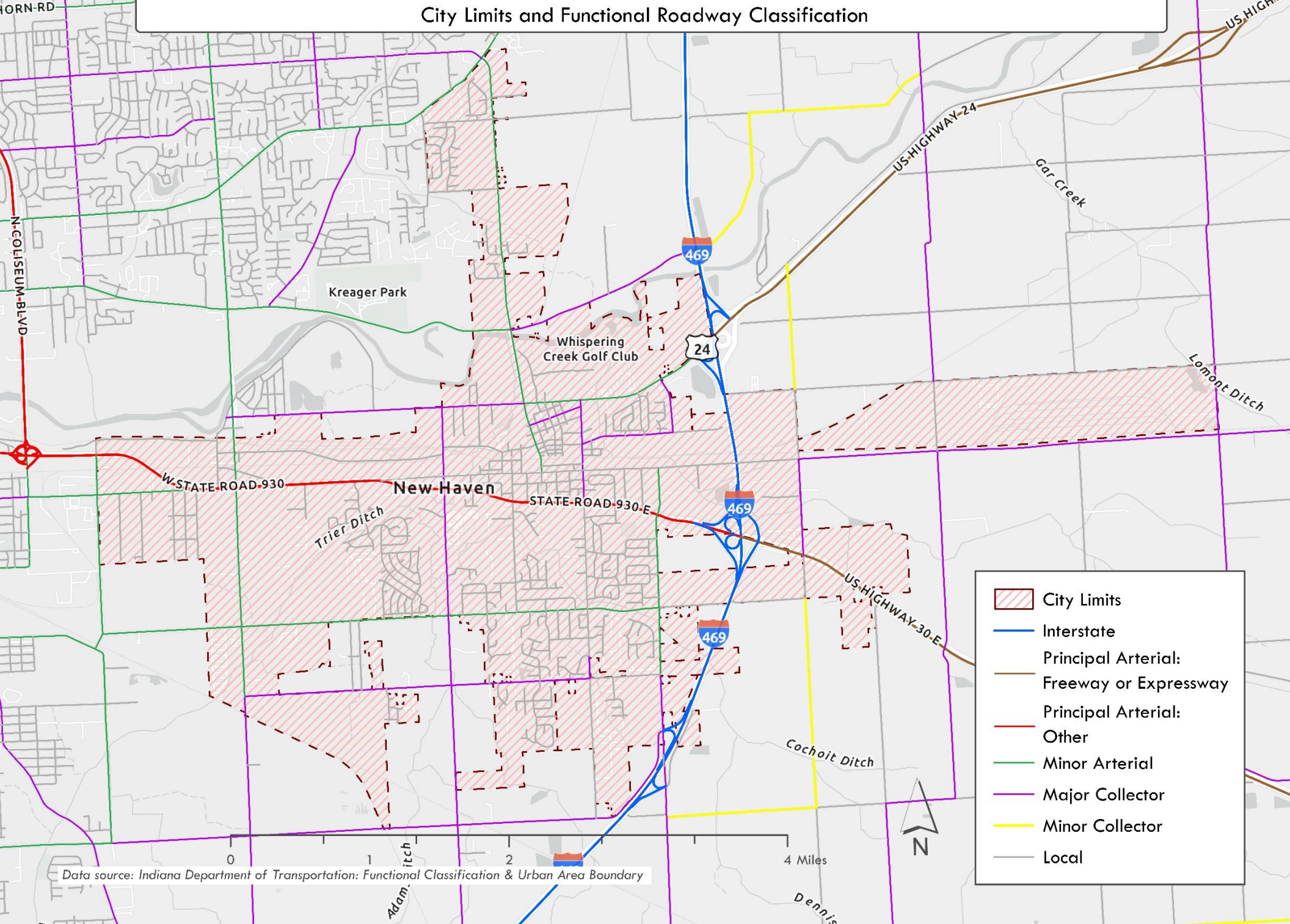
The Safety Action Plan shall utilize an evidence-based approach to examine crash trends, conditions, and other factors that result in serious injury and fatalities on all roadways within the City of New Haven and provide an equitable approach to identifying and prioritizing infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements to eliminate fatal and severe injury crashes on roadways throughout the City. The Safety Action Plan will meet all requirements of the Safe Streets for All program and include the following components:

1. Leadership Commitment and Goal Setting
2. Planning Structure
3. Safety Analysis
4. Engagement and Collaboration
5. Equity Considerations
6. Policy and Process Changes
7. Strategy and Project Selections
8. Progress and Transparency

² Hoole, Nathan. *City of New Haven - Annual Report 2023*, 2023, <https://www.newhaven.in.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1745/2023-City-of-New-Haven-Annual-Report?bidId=>.

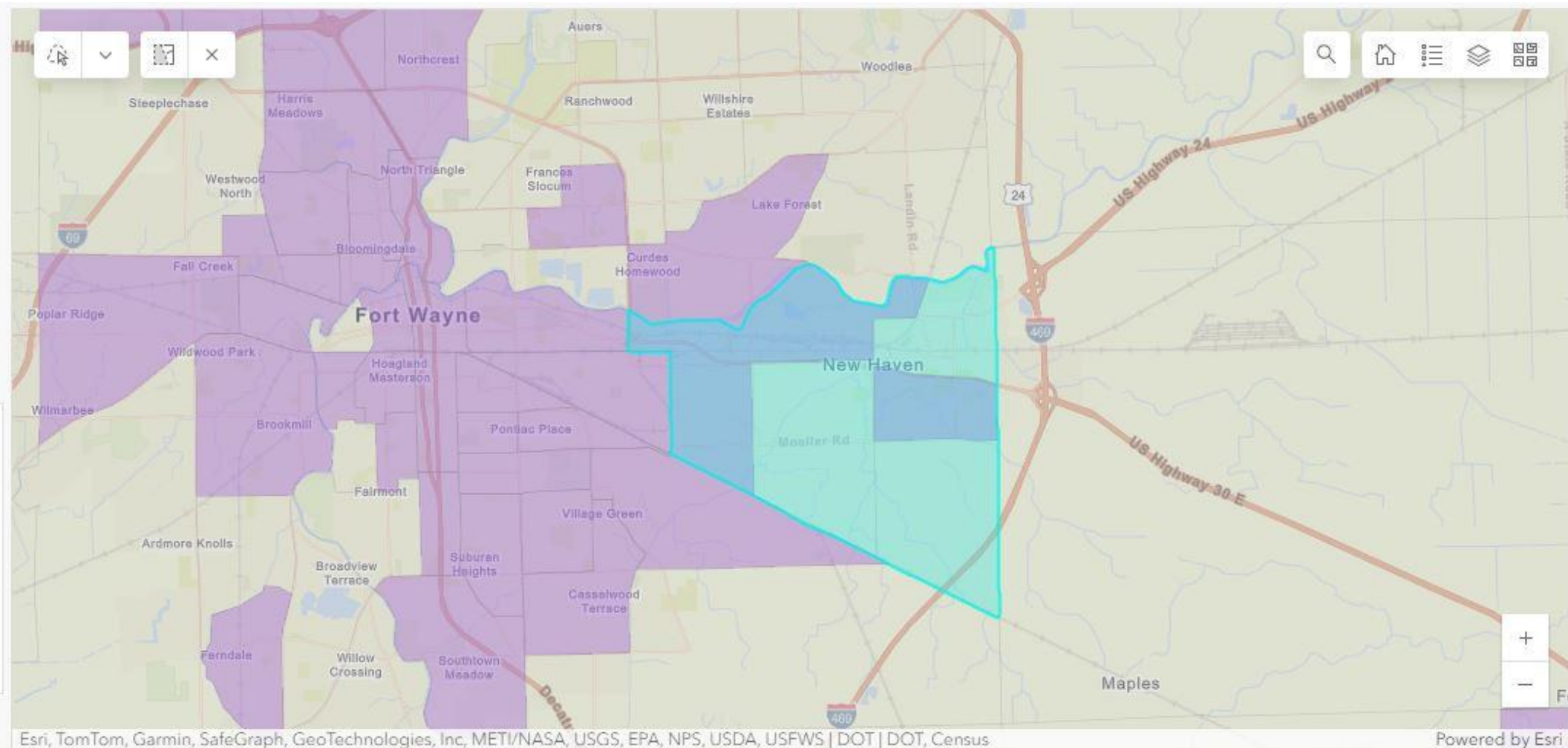
⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. "Age and Sex." *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101*, 2022, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S0101?g=160XX00US1852992>.

City Limits and Functional Roadway Classification



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**Total Population Living in the
Selected Project Area**



15.3k

**Total Population Living in Disadvantaged Census
Tracts in the Selected Project Area**



6.4k

**% of Disadvantaged Census Tracts in the
Selected Project Area**



40%