

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-509
OCTOBER 6, 1997 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:

**SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS–
STATE ISTEAFUNDS**

SUBMITTED BY:

**JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SYNOPSIS –

The State of Iowa Department of Transportation has announced a funding cycle for State Intermodal Surface Transportation Enforcement Act (ISTEA) funds for transportation enhancement projects. Staff has prepared grant applications for two projects that have been identified as high priorities by both businesses and neighborhood organizations. These include improvements to the Euclid Avenue streetscapes and additional improvements to the Fairground Edge Demonstration Project on East University Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Fairground Edge Demonstration Project:

Total \$580,000

ISTEA request \$464,000

City Match (CDBG) \$116,000

East Euclid Avenue Streetscape Improvements:

Total \$572,000

ISTEA request \$357,000

City Match (CDBG) \$215,000

RECOMMENDATION –

Submit grant application for Fairground Edge Project and Euclid Avenue Streetscape Improvements.

BACKGROUND –

Fairground Edge Project

The Fairground Edge Project is to provide enhancements to the northern edge of the Iowa State Fairgrounds fronting on East University Avenue. It is one of a series of projects planned to improve the University Avenue streetscape from Second Avenue to the Des Moines city limits.

The City contracted with the consultants Dunbar Jones to develop a plan for all of East University Avenue in January of 1994. That plan was adopted by the Neighborhood Advisory Board, Plan and Zoning Commission, and Des Moines City Council. It has proceeded with implementation through an ISTEAs grant of \$249,035 and a City match of \$194,683 using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The ISTEAs and CDBG funds that have been received are for improvements at the corner of East University Avenue and 30th Street and the East University Fairgrounds Entrance at East 33rd Court. The improvements include masonry piers, steel fencing, plantings, retaining walls, utility relocation, flagpoles at the entrance, and some sidewalk improvements.

This grant application for ISTEAs funds is to visually and physically connect the northern edge of the Fairgrounds and particularly the Phase I improvements. It is proposed to build a decorative masonry and steel fence to complement the historic fairgrounds, and add a concrete and brick sidewalk to enhance the pedestrian capacity of East University. The 2,200 lineal feet of fencing will cost \$450,000. The 2,200 feet of sidewalk will cost \$100,000.

Euclid Avenue Streetscape Project

The Euclid Avenue Streetscape Project will provide enhancement to the streetscape along Euclid Avenue from 2nd Avenue to 6th Avenue. A design plan for this area will be developed as well as the implementation of the Phase I improvements to the Euclid Avenue and 6th Avenue intersection. These improvements will extend 1/2 block or 140' in all directions from the intersection and will include replacement of broken curbs and sidewalks, the implementation of curb cuts at corners, improvement in the drainage of water along curbs, pedestrian crosswalks, light and signalization poles, banners, street trees, planter boxes, and special paving materials.

These improvements are intended to better accommodate pedestrians using the area, and also to improve the appearance and therefore the image of the commercial district. Other initiatives currently underway that will work with this project to improve the commercial district is a building mural program, the development of a neighborhood welcome sign at this intersection, landscape improvements to the North Side Library, and a facade improvement program prepared by a local consultant.