

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-452

SYNOPSIS —

**AGENDA:
OCTOBER 5, 1998**

**SUBJECT:
GRANT REQUEST
FOR EAST LOCUST
STREET
STREETSCAPE
IMPROVEMENTS**

**TYPE:
RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

**SUBMITTED BY:
JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR**

On May 4, 1998, Council approved the Gateway project and directed the City Manager to prepare various actions related to project implementation. One action is for the City to request grant money available through the TEA-21 (Transportation Enhancement Act) program. (Application on file in the City Clerk's office.) These funds are distributed by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the East Locust Street streetscape improvement project is an appropriate request. This grant request for Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds, if approved, will assist in the following:

- Implementing the East Locust Street streetscape improvements which have been identified as one of the four "catalytic initiatives" of the City Council approved "Des Moines: Capitol Gateway East Urban Design Plan".
- Encouraging the reinvestment and revitalization of the east side of downtown Des Moines.
- Enhancing tourist-friendly development, as well as the development of State-related office and support space and compatible services.
- Establishing a pedestrian-friendly environment that attracts, retains, and supports residential and mixed use development.
- Providing an attractive approach to the State Capitol and promote improved linkages with State government and the Capitol complex.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The cost of the proposed streetscape improvements outlined in the grant request total approximately \$2,000,000 for which the City would need to assume responsibility for a minimum of 30

percent of the project costs. The City will continue to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the street and adjacent right-of-way in which these improvements will occur.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

o Pursuing this grant is compatible with the initial goals of the Capitol Gateway East report and the identified "catalytic initiatives".

o The State of Iowa is working on the Capitol Terraces project, one of the "catalytic initiatives" in the Capitol Gateway East plan. The State has committed \$5.8 million for the construction of a new parking ramp and is actively pursuing raising the remaining \$9.2 million. This parking ramp will accommodate the cars to be relocated from the surface lot on the west side of the Capitol building to convert the area to the Capitol Terraces, the eastern terminus of East Locust Street streetscape improvements.

o Privately initiated development is responsible for the current rehabilitation of the Teachout Building and its neighbor, the Hohberger Building (the former Carousel store) at East 5th and Locust into new office space, and the study of the McCoy Building across Locust Street for possible rehab.

o The streetscape improvements along Locust Street will visually and physically connect the City offices, the State offices, and private development in between.

o This project is seen as a way to maximize public investment to attract private investment dollars for a variety of mixed use development including residential, office, and appropriate, compatible support services.

o The TEA-21 program is the renamed and extended version of the popular and successful ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act) funding program which

promotes and helps fund projects which focus on improving and beautifying transportation corridors and projects to encourage other modes of transportation such as pedestrians, bikes, and mass transit. This grant offers a 70 percent/30 percent funding arrangement with the applicant responsible for a minimum of 30 percent of the project costs.

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