

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-339

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JULY 26, 1999

City staff has prepared an application for Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for construction of the north-south section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Ingersoll Avenue to Fleur Drive. Applications must be submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for consideration of the project and its consistency with the transportation plan.

SUBJECT:

IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
CONGESTION
MITIGATION AND
AIR QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT
FUND APPLICATION

FISCAL IMPACT -

The base construction cost for the north-south section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Ingersoll Avenue to Fleur Drive is estimated to be \$18,886,000, with CMAQ funding requested in the amount of \$5,500,000. The CMAQ funding is proposed to be divided into allocations over the next four years. This project is part of the total north-south section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Fleur Drive to I-235, which is included in the 1999-2000/2004-05 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), page 307.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

Authorize the City Manager to submit this application through the MPO to the IDOT.

BACKGROUND -

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a CMAQ program that directs federal transportation funds toward projects to reduce congestion and air pollution. Iowa's share of the funding has been \$4.7 million annually. This funding program has been continued in the new federal transportation funding bill, the 1998 Transportation

Equity Act.

IDOT has established guidelines to prioritize the disbursement of these funds. Their program is implemented through a statewide competitive application procedure that evaluates each proposed project, based on reducing congestion and pollution, and thereby maintaining the clean air quality that Iowa now enjoys. Types of projects that are eligible for this funding include traffic flow improvements, shared-ride services, transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle programs, and others. Project applications are required to be submitted to the MPO for review and concurrence, and then submitted to IDOT no later than October 1, 1999.

The City has previously received funding for seven projects through this program: Downtown Signal System (\$3,000,000); East 14th Signal System (\$800,000); East Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$580,000); Northwest Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$400,000); Grand/Ingersoll/University Corridor Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$1,000,000); Phase One (Right-of-Way) of the Indianola Avenue Connector Project (\$2,600,000) and Phase Two construction (\$2,400,000); and Traffic Signal Interconnection Upgrading-2nd/6th Avenue Corridors (\$520,000). These projects were all approved for 80 percent federal CMAQ funding through IDOT.

The proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway project would include north-south section of the total project extending from Ingersoll Avenue south to Fleur Drive. The project would develop a new six-lane divided facility from the south line of Ingersoll Avenue and extend under Grand Avenue, which would bridge over the facility. It would bridge over the railroad lines, the Raccoon River, and southbound Fleur Drive. Fleur Drive would be reconstructed to accommodate the new north-south facility. The design of the north-south segment of the project and the design of Fleur Drive would fit the ultimate intersection design with the east-west section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway.

The present traffic flow is difficult with north-south traffic required to use Ingersoll Avenue, 18th and 19th Streets, Grand Avenue, and to traverse the Tech High intersection-the single most complicated intersection in the metropolitan area. The average AM peak hour travel speeds, as measured by November 1994 speed studies, are 15 mph for northbound and 26 mph for southbound traffic. The PM peak hour travel speeds

are 23 mph and 21 mph for northbound and southbound traffic, respectively. The present travel distance from the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Ingersoll Avenue to the intersection of Fleur Drive and Gray's Lake entrance is 1.15 miles. Upon completion of the project, the north-south traffic will be able to travel directly from Ingersoll Avenue to Fleur Drive. The travel distance will be reduced to 0.84 miles.