

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**99-464**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 4, 1999

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) is soliciting project applications for Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds for Fiscal Year 2001. It is recommended that the City submit an application for these funds for the enhanced landscape elements and streetscape elements along the east-west section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Southwest Seventh Street to Southwest Sixteenth Street.

**SUBJECT:**

APPLICATION TO  
IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
FOR STATEWIDE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENHANCEMENT  
FUNDS FOR EAST-  
WEST SECTION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.  
PARKWAY

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The total estimated cost for the enhancement project is \$980,000. The minimum local match is 30 percent, or \$294,000, with requested enhancement funds of \$686,000. The local match funds are included in the Approved 1999/2000 - 2004/05 Capital Improvements Program, Page 306, Account 383943, Fund CP038, Organization ENG990000, Project/Grant STR039.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Authorize the City Manager to submit an application for Statewide Transportation Enhancement funds for the east-west section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Southwest Seventh Street to Southwest Sixteenth Street.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ  
CITY ENGINEER

**BACKGROUND -**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway is a proposed six-lane major arterial street in the City of Des Moines. The parkway is forecast to carry approximately 40,000 vehicles per day and will provide improved access to the Central Business District, the Des Moines International Airport, and the State Capitol area. It will also reduce traffic congestion on I-235 and other

streets in the Central Business District area.

Because the parkway will create a new major roadway through existing neighborhoods and will provide a "gateway" into downtown, the City proposes to construct a distinctive project that will emphasize aesthetics and user appeal. A nationally experienced design team, working closely with the Citizen Advisory Committee, has developed an enhancement concept for the Parkway, which includes three major components, as identified below.

1. The roadway should have an overall theme that complements and enhances the surrounding environment. Using strategic planting of well-developed trees and shrubs along the corridor, the roadway emerges as "a rhythm of trees."
2. The Parkway and bridges should become symbolic elements of Des Moines, presenting an image that is dynamic and yet consistent with the architecture already present in the city.
3. There should be common architectural elements for the intersections, with specific designs that capture the character of each neighborhood served by the Parkway.

The proposed enhancement project would involve the installation of special streetscape elements and landscape elements along Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. The streetscape elements would include special pavement at the intersections and special median pavement. The landscaping elements would include street trees; ornamental trees; shrubs; perennials; and amenities, such as benches and trash receptacles at intersections.

Each Transportation Enhancement funding applicant must provide assurance that they will adequately maintain the completed project for its intended public use for a minimum of 20 years following completion.