

## Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**01-572**

**AGENDA:**

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

**SUBJECT:**

DES MOINES  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION  
STP AND STP-TE  
FUND  
APPLICATIONS

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

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

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

**SYNOPSIS -**

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is soliciting project applications for Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds for the 2005 Fiscal Year (FY). It is recommended that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below:

1. (STP) Major Construction Category: Martin Luther King East Extension - SW 2nd Street to SE 6th Street
2. (STP) Major Construction Category: East 14th Street Widening - Ovid Avenue to Sheridan Avenue
3. (STP) Major Construction Category: 15th Street Extension - Grand Avenue to Ingersoll Avenue
4. (STP) Major Construction Category: Beaver Avenue Reconstruction - Aurora Avenue to Interstate 80/35 (I-80/35) Overpass (joint application with Polk County)
5. (STP) Minor Construction Category: Intersection of 2nd and Douglas Avenues - Traffic Signal Upgrade
6. (STP) Minor Construction Category: Intersection of East 21st Street and University Avenue - Traffic Signal Upgrade
7. (STP) Minor Construction Category: Intersection of East 38th Street and Hubbell Avenue -Traffic Signal Upgrade
8. (STP) Preservation Category: Fleur Drive Resurfacing - South terminus of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to the Railroad Viaduct
9. (STP) Preservation Category: 2nd Avenue Resurfacing - Grand Avenue to University Avenue
10. (STP) Preservation Category: University Avenue Resurfacing - Des Moines River Bridge to 6th Avenue

11. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Riverpoint Trail which will connect Des Moines Water Works Park and Gray's Lake Park to downtown Des Moines and the Des Moines River Trail System (John Pat Dorrian and Neal Smith trails)

12. (STP-TE) Historic Preservation: SW 5th Street Bridge Rehabilitation over the Raccoon River.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT -**

Local matching funds for these projects are either included in the 2001-02/2006-07 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

#### **RECOMMENDATION -**

**Authorize the City Manager to submit applications to the MPO for Federal STP and TE funds.**

#### **BACKGROUND -**

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP and STP-TE funds for FY2005. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

##### A. STP Project Applications

STP project applications are requested for FY2005 with a total of approximately \$4.5 million available for the metro region. The MPO has previously established four categories of STP projects: Major Construction, Minor Construction, Preservation, and Alternative Transportation. Staff reviewed a number of potential projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for STP funding:

##### 1. Major Construction Category:

a. Martin Luther King East Extension - SW 2nd Street to SE 6th Street

This project would consist of the next phase of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, extending the facility east across the Des Moines River to Southeast 6th Street. The bridge over the Des Moines River

and the roadway east to SE 6th Street would be constructed as a two-lane facility, expandable to four lanes in the future. The estimated project cost is approximately \$12.5 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$2 million from FY2005 funds, with additional funding requests in future years. Additional funds from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) will also be pursued.

b. East 14th Street Widening - Ovid Avenue to Sheridan Avenue

This project consists of widening the existing East 14th Street corridor between Sheridan Avenue and Ovid Avenue to a five-lane facility in order to provide a left-turn lane through this area. The total project cost is \$3.9 million, of which the City is requesting \$500,000 of MPO funds. The intersection of East 14th Street and Hull Avenue, which is included within the project budget, would be funded using approximately \$1 million of Federal Hazard Elimination Safety Fund (HES) monies, which are administered through IDOT. The remaining \$2.4 million would be requested through IDOT.

c. 15th Street Extension - Grand Avenue to Ingersoll Avenue

This project would consist of extending 15th Street north from Grand Avenue to connect to Ingersoll Avenue. The 15th Street corridor has been identified as an important north-south connection serving the west end of the downtown area. A four-lane roadway would be constructed. The estimated project cost is \$750,000, of which the City plans to request \$575,000 of MPO funds.

d. Beaver Avenue Reconstruction - Aurora Avenue to I-80/35 Overpass (joint application with Polk County)

This project consists of widening Beaver Avenue between Aurora Avenue and I-80/35 to a three-lane facility, in order to provide one through lane in each direction, along with a continuous center left-turn lane. New traffic signals would be included at Aurora, Meredith, and Lower Beaver. The estimated project cost is \$2,500,000. STP funding will be requested for \$1,725,000. The remaining costs would be shared proportionately between Polk County and the City of Des Moines.

2. Minor Construction Category:

a. Intersection of 2nd and Douglas Avenues - Traffic Signal Upgrade

This project consists of replacing and upgrading the existing traffic signal at the intersection of 2nd and Douglas Avenues. The project

will enhance safety by improving signal visibility, and also reduce vehicle delays by installing modern actuated equipment. The estimated project cost is \$100,000, of which the City is requesting \$75,000 of MPO funds.

**b. Intersection of East 21st Street and University Avenue - Traffic Signal Upgrade**

This project consists of replacing and upgrading the existing traffic signal at the intersection of East 21st Street and University Avenue. The project will enhance safety by improving signal visibility, and also reduce vehicle delays by installing modern actuated equipment. The estimated project cost is \$100,000, of which the City is requesting \$75,000 of MPO funds.

**c. Intersection of East 38th Street and Hubbell Avenue - Traffic Signal Upgrade**

This project consists of replacing and upgrading the existing traffic signal at the intersection of East 38th Street and Hubbell Avenue. The project will enhance safety by improving signal visibility, and will also reduce vehicle delays by installing modern actuated equipment. The estimated project cost is \$100,000, of which the City is requesting \$75,000 of MPO funds.

**3. Preservation:**

**a. Fleur Drive Resurfacing - South Terminus of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to the Railroad Viaduct**

This project would consist of repair and resurfacing of Fleur Drive from the south end of the proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway project southerly to the railroad viaduct south of Valley Drive. The estimated cost is \$450,000, of which the City is requesting STP funds of \$360,000.

**b. 2nd Avenue Resurfacing - Grand Avenue to University Avenue**

This project would consist of repair and resurfacing of 2nd Avenue from Grand Avenue north to University Avenue. The estimated cost is \$500,000, of which the City is requesting STP funds of \$400,000.

**c. University Avenue Resurfacing - Des Moines River Bridge to 6th Avenue**

This project would consist of repair and resurfacing of University

Avenue from the Des Moines River Bridge westerly to 6th Avenue. The estimated cost is \$500,000, of which the City is requesting STP funds of \$400,000.

## B. TE Project Applications

The MPO has previously established three categories of TE projects: Scenic/Environmental, Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities, and Historic Preservation. Total funds available are rather limited, with approximately \$450,000 per year for funding of all three categories. Engineering, Community Development, and Park and Recreation staff have reviewed a number of potential projects and recommend the following projects for submission to the MPO for TE funding.

1. Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: The Riverpoint Trail project will construct a bicycle/pedestrian trail from Gray's Lake to and across the existing Court Avenue Railroad Bridge on the Des Moines River. The Riverpoint Trail will be the final link of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) to be constructed within the City of Des Moines. The ADT is a transcontinental trail running from the West Coast to the East Coast of the United States. When completed in Des Moines, it will connect other ADT segments in the western suburbs of West Des Moines, Clive, Windsor Heights, Urbandale, and Waukee to Des Moines Water Works Park, Gray's Lake, Downtown Des Moines, and the Des Moines River Trail System (John Pat Dorrian and Neal Smith Trails). Like these other trail segments, the Riverpoint Trail will provide both recreational and commuter opportunities for the citizens of Des Moines and its suburbs.

The Riverpoint Trail has previously been approved as a part of the MPO's trail system for Des Moines. The total cost of the trail project is estimated to be \$940,000, of which the City is asking \$150,000 of MPO funds, with remaining monies to be a combination of other future grants, private contributions, and CIP funds.

2. Historic Preservation: The SW 5th Street Bridge crosses the Raccoon River near Sec Taylor Stadium. It was converted in the early 1990s from a vehicular bridge to a pedestrian bridge, rather than dismantling it when a replacement bridge was constructed at SW 3rd Street. In May of 1998, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by action of the National Park Service. When funds become available to build the remaining segment of the ADT in Des Moines (from Gray's Lake to the Court Avenue Railroad Bridge), the SW 5th Street Bridge will be the key element for crossing the Raccoon River.

It is proposed that several improvements be made to the bridge to accommodate strollers, bicycles, and recreational equipment such as roller blades and skateboards. These improvements include repairing eyebars, floor beams, and stringers; constructing new railings, decking, and lighting; painting the entire structure; and removing debris. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$330,000, of which the City would be requesting \$150,000 of MPO funds and the remaining monies to be a combination of other future grants, private contributions, and CIP funds.

Each MPO funding application (for STP or TE funds) must provide assurance that the sponsor will adequately maintain the completed project for its intended public use for a minimum of 20 years following completion.

---