

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

02-514

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS -
SOUTH CENTRAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT
PARK AND RIDE
FEASIBILITY STUDY

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

The City of Des Moines and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) are jointly seeking proposals from qualified firms to update an original feasibility study completed in 1993 that recommended a second intermodal facility on the south side of the Des Moines Central Business District. The study will also examine the effectiveness of the existing Walnut Transit Mall and, if appropriate, identify alternative approaches for accommodating downtown transit activities. The study will be under the guidance of a steering committee composed of representatives from the Downtown Parking Committee, Downtown Community Alliance, City staff, and the MTA. A subcommittee of the steering committee will evaluate the proposals received, interview selected firms, and recommend the most qualified firm. The MTA Board will select the firm and award a contract, with concurrence by the City. On September 17, 2002, the MTA Board approved the proposed study and included the necessary funding request in the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) grant application.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The estimated cost for the proposed study is approximately \$200,000. The FTA funds will provide 80 percent of the cost and the required matching 20 percent will be split between the City and the MTA, with the City providing approximately \$25,000 and the MTA providing \$15,000. The City's funds will be parking revenue from the Center Street Park and Ride.

RECOMMENDATION —

Authorize the City Manager to work with the MTA to solicit proposals, and to allocate up to \$25,000 of Park and Ride revenues for a study of an additional Park and Ride Facility and evaluation of the Walnut Transit Mall.

BACKGROUND —

Last year Iowa's congressional delegation appropriated \$700,000 in FTA funds to the MTA to support development of planning and construction documents for a second intermodal park and ride facility in the Des Moines Central Business District. The original feasibility study was completed in 1993, and recommended the current Center Street Park and Ride. The study also recommended that a second intermodal facility was needed on the south side of the Des Moines Central Business District. The FTA funds

are intended to update the current feasibility study and confirm the appropriateness of the project, recommend a location, and move into preliminary engineering.

It is expected that the design and construction of this facility will be a cooperative effort between the MTA and the City of Des Moines. The project is envisioned to include both structured and surface parking, and the acquisition of shuttle vehicles.

At the present time, the MTA and the City desire to move forward with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to update the original feasibility study. This study will undertake the following major activities:

1. Analyze parking supply and demand in the south portion of the Central Business District and determine whether or not there is a need for an additional intermodal facility in downtown Des Moines.
2. If an additional park and ride facility is necessary, determine the optimum location for the facility.
3. Analyze the current transit route structure in the Central Business District with respect to the usage, function, and effectiveness of the Walnut Street Transit Mall and identify appropriate alternative transit routes, including transfer needs, to serve the changing downtown environment.

Once the study has been completed, assuming the study substantiates a continued need for this facility, the project will then move into the site evaluation and preliminary engineering phase. The MTA will be the lead agency in issuing the RFP and managing the contract for the study. A steering committee will be established to guide the overall study. This committee will include representatives from the Downtown Parking Committee; Downtown Community Alliance; City staff from Engineering, Traffic and Transportation, Community Development, and City Manager's Office; and the MTA. A subcommittee of the steering committee will evaluate the proposals received, interview selected firms, and recommend the most qualified firm. The MTA Board will select the firm and award a contract, with concurrence by the City.