

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

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**02-545**

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 21, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

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

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JEB BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**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 2006 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) Minor Construction Category: Intersection of 2nd and Douglas Avenues - Traffic Signal Upgrade
3. (STP) Minor Construction Category: Intersection of East 21st Street and University Avenue - Traffic Signal Upgrade
4. (STP) Preservation Category: Hickman Road Resurfacing – 30th Street to Beaver Avenue
5. (STP) Preservation Category: 2nd Avenue Resurfacing – Grand Avenue to University Avenue.
6. (STP) Preservation Category: University Avenue Resurfacing – Des Moines River Bridge to 6th Avenue.
7. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Waveland Trail, Phase One, which will connect from Cummins Parkway east along the I-235 corridor to Polk Boulevard.
8. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Improvements, 15th Street to Polk Boulevard
9. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Fleur Drive Beautification, streetscape improvements, between McKinley Avenue and the Raccoon River
10. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Highland Park Streetscape Project, Phase II, enhancing and extending the improvements planned for the intersection of 6th and Euclid Avenues

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Local matching funds for these projects are either included in the 2002-03/2007-08 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 FY2006. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

A. STP Project Applications

STP project applications are requested for FY2006 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 has reviewed a number of potential projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for STP funding:

1. Major Construction Category:

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. (MLK) Parkway, extending the facility east across the Des Moines River to East 6th Street. The bridge over the Des Moines River and the roadway east to East 6th Street would be constructed as a two-lane facility, expandable to four lanes in the future. The estimated project cost is approximately \$13 million. The City requested \$2 million of FY2005 STP funds, and was awarded \$0.5 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$2 million from FY2006 funds, with additional funding requests in future years. Additional funds from the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) will also be pursued.

2. Minor Construction Category:

Traffic Signal Upgrade Project – 2nd Avenue and Douglas Avenue

This project consists of replacing and upgrading the existing traffic signals at the intersection of 2nd Avenue (Iowa 415) and Douglas Avenue. This project will enhance the safety of the intersection by improving the signal visibility, and also reduce vehicle delays by installing modern actuated equipment. The estimated project cost is \$125,000, of which the City is requesting \$100,000 of MPO funds.

Traffic Signal Upgrade Project – East 21st Street and East University Avenue

This project consists of replacing and upgrading the existing traffic signals at the intersection of East 21st Street and East University Avenue (Iowa 163). This project will enhance the safety of the intersection by improving the signal visibility, and also reduce vehicle delays by installing modern actuated equipment. The estimated project cost is \$150,000, of which the City is requesting \$120,000 of MPO funds.

3. Preservation:

Hickman Road Resurfacing – 30th Street to Beaver Avenue

This project would consist of repair and resurfacing of Hickman Road from the intersection of 30th Street west to the intersection of Beaver Avenue. The estimated cost is \$450,000, of which the City would be requesting \$360,000 of MPO funds.

Second 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 would be requesting \$400,000 of MPO funds.

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 would be requesting \$400,000 of MPO funds.

B. TE Project Applications

TE project applications are requested for FY2006. 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:

Waveland Trail – Phase One

This project consists of a bicycle/pedestrian trail from Cummins Parkway at Pleasant Street east along Interstate 235 (I-235) to Polk Boulevard. From Cummins Parkway, the trail will go east along the south side of I-235 to 56th Street, then cross over the freeway along the west side of the 56th Street bridge. The trail will cross 56th Street at the signalized exit ramp, and continue east along the north edge of I-235 and south edge of the Waveland Golf Course to Polk Boulevard. Phase One of the Waveland Trail is one of three phases of a larger project: Phase Two will extend north along the east side of 56th Street to Franklin Avenue, and Phase Three will extend east along I-235 to the new Cottage Grove bridge, which is being constructed with a trail connection on the north side of the bridge.

When all three phases are completed, the Waveland Trail will provide both recreational and commuter opportunities for all citizens of Des Moines and its suburbs. The western terminus at Cummins

Parkway will be connected to the Walnut Creek/Clive Greenbelt Trail, which extends to the western suburbs. The eastern terminus at Cottage Grove bridge will connect to the new MLK Parkway bicycle/trail, linking to the new Gateway West Park, Gray's Lake Park, the Principal Riverwalk, Pat Dorrian Trail, and the Neal Smith Trail. This project is a coordinated effort between the City of Des Moines and IDOT to provide the necessary space for the proposed trail along the right-of-way of the future reconstruction of I-235. The estimated cost for this phase of the trail is \$500,000, of which the City will be requesting \$150,000 of enhancement funds.

2. Scenic/Environmental:

Ingersoll Ave Streetscape Improvements

This project consists of streetscape and landscaping improvements along Ingersoll Avenue, an historic streetcar corridor on the west side of Des Moines. An Ingersoll Avenue Planning Committee has been established to develop a long-range plan for Ingersoll Avenue, from 15th Street west to Polk Boulevard. Goals identified by the committee include enhanced vitality of the businesses, improved pedestrian amenities and connections, improved parking, and safe movement of traffic from the downtown and MLK Parkway to the west side of the city. To begin the Ingersoll Project, the City has secured safety funds to install turning lane and traffic signal improvements at the 28th, 31st, 35<sup>th</sup>, and 42nd Street intersections during the next six months.

Future improvements will include enhanced sidewalks and pedestrian features, landscaping improvements and decorative street lighting, and may also include decreasing the number of lanes along Ingersoll, experimenting with designated bus lanes and/or bicycle lanes, and developing convenient parking shared among the businesses. The STP-TE funds would be for the pedestrian and sidewalk enhancements, including improved crosswalk and pedestrian connections and furnishings; landscaping enhancements; and decorative street lighting. It is estimated that these improvements will be implemented in two or more phases. The estimated cost of the phase to be submitted is approximately \$500,000 and the STP-TE request is for \$150,000.

Fleur Drive Beautification, Streetscape Improvements

This project consists of landscaping improvements along Fleur Drive from McKinley Avenue north to the Raccoon River. Fleur Drive serves as a primary entry corridor into the City of Des Moines and the Central Business District from the south side of Des Moines, including the new Relocated Iowa 5 beltway and the Des Moines International Airport. Douglas Hoerr, noted Landscape Architect from Chicago, is designing a landscape plan to provide extensive permanent and seasonal ornamental plantings, primarily in the median, along Fleur Drive. The project will also include decorative raised planters to further enhance the landscaping features. The City will initiate Phase I this calendar year (2002), from south of Bell Avenue north to the north entrance to Gray's Lake Park.

Future phases of this project will extend the landscaping improvements south from Bell Avenue to McKinley Avenue and north from Gray's Lake Park to the Raccoon River. The estimated cost for the future phase to be submitted is approximately \$600,000 with TE funding requested in the amount of \$150,000.

#### Highland Park Streetscape Project Phase II

This project consists of streetscape improvements along Euclid Avenue that will enhance and extend the improvements at the intersection of Sixth and Euclid Avenues that are scheduled to be completed in fall 2003. The City previously received STP TE funds of \$166,000 for that intersection project. The proposed project will extend those streetscape improvements, and provide continuity between the Highland Park Historic Business District at Sixth and Euclid Avenues and the College Corner Commercial Historic District at Second and Euclid Avenues. The intent of these projects and other work is to provide an environment throughout the entire Highland Park Business District that is not only safe, unique, and meaningful to the Highland and Oak Park Neighborhoods, but one which also begins to recapture the commercial and cultural vitality that once existed there. The project will include sidewalk replacement/enhancement, vintage style streetlights and pedestrian lighting, street furnishings, and planters. The estimated project cost is \$2 million, of which the City will be requesting \$250,000 of TE 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.