



Agenda Item:

8

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 5/23/05  
275

Communication No.: 05-

Agenda No.:	Item	Type:	Resolution	Roll	Call
-------------	------	-------	------------	------	------

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

### SUBJECT—

Approving and Authorizing Execution of Iowa DOT Agreement for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Project - Downtown Wayfinding Sign System.

### SYNOPSIS—

The Iowa Department of Transportation has prepared an agreement with the City of Des Moines for the Downtown Wayfinding Sign System.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

Total estimated construction cost for the project is \$715,000. The Iowa DOT has approved CMAQ funding for up to \$500,000. The City's share is 20 percent, or a total of \$125,000. The City will also be responsible for final design and inspection services, estimated at \$90,000. Funds are available in the Capital Improvements Program, Parking Facility Exterior Signing – PKG023.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

## **BACKGROUND—**

On August 23, 2004 by Roll Call 04-1797, the City Council authorized the City Manager to submit an application through the Metropolitan Planning Organization to the Iowa Department of Transportation for CMAQ funds for the Downtown Wayfinding Sign System. This project will install new electronic signing on the street approaches to the downtown parking facilities, in order to provide driver information regarding parking availability at these locations. This system would be capable of directing motorists to the nearest parking facility, and if that location were full, it would indicate where the next facility with available spaces is located. This will reduce vehicle-miles of travel and idling times for motorists within the downtown area.

On March 28, 2005 by Roll Call 05-663, the City Council approved the City participation in the Downtown Community Alliance's (DCA) Wayfinding Sign Project. The Downtown Community Alliance (DCA) contracted with RDG Planning & Design, 301 Grand Avenue, to plan and design a Wayfinding Sign System for downtown Des Moines. The total cost for the planning and design contract is \$78,000, which is shared with the City paying \$25,000, Polk County paying \$25,000 and the DCA paying the balance. This sign system will provide much-needed information for motorists and pedestrians about major attractions in the downtown, and is integrated with the parking sign system.

The total Downtown Wayfinding Sign System will be implemented in two phases. The initial phase will be implemented on a fast track schedule, to install directional signs designed by RDG for the major attractions by mid-July prior to the National Governors Association meeting. The total estimated cost for these signs is \$110,000. The remaining parking signs will utilize the same logo and basic sign design as the attraction signs, but will require final design of the parking availability message and communications links through the Downtown Signal System. It is expected that this design will be completed and the project scheduled for letting in late 2005 with construction in early 2006.