



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

September 11, 2006

Agenda Item No. 10

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-560

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

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratify and confirm the City Manager's action to submit Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation--(1) East 14th Street Widening at Hull Avenue (\$750,000), and (2) Merle Hay Road Traffic Signal Interconnection Upgrading (\$440,000).

SYNOPSIS:

This action would ratify two applications for submittal to the Iowa Department of Transportation for Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) funding. The two projects recommended by staff are: (1) East 14th Street Widening at Hull Avenue; and (2) Merle Hay Road Traffic Signal Interconnection Upgrading. The goal of the ICAAP is to reduce congestion and thereby improve air quality.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:

The East 14th Street/Hull Avenue intersection widening project is part of a larger project in the current City Capital Improvements Program (CIP) that includes widening of E. 14th Street between Arthur and Tiffin Avenues. The cost of the E. 14th Street/Hull Avenue intersection portion of the project is \$1,170,000. (The entire project cost is estimated to be \$4,670,000).

The estimated construction cost for the Merle Hay Road Traffic Signal Interconnect Upgrade project is \$550,000. \$440,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested for this project. The City's share would be 20 percent, or \$110,000. In addition, the City would be responsible for project related design/inspection services estimated at \$90,000.

Funding Source:

Funding for the East 14th Street/Hull Avenue intersection widening project is a cooperative effort between the City of Des Moines and the Iowa Department of Transportation involving multiple funding sources. \$750,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested for this project. The City has committed \$800,000 in G. O. Bonds to this project as identified in the 2006-07 CIP, Page Street Improvements – 14, STR223.

If the ICAAP funding is approved for the Merle Hay Road Traffic Signal Interconnect Upgrade project, the City's total share (\$200,000) will be funded from the 2006-07 CIP, Page Traffic Control Improvements - 6, STR097, Citywide Traffic Signal Interconnection, using G.O. Bonds.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program that directs federal transportation funds for projects to reduce congestion and pollution. The Iowa Department of Transportation has established an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP), including guidelines on how to prioritize the disbursement of these funds, which are approximately \$4.7 million annually statewide. Their program is implemented through a statewide competitive application procedure that evaluates each proposed project based on reducing congestion and pollution, and thereby maintaining the clean air quality that Iowa now enjoys.

The types of projects that are eligible for this funding include Traffic Flow Improvements, Shared-Ride Services, Transit Improvements, Pedestrian and Bicycle Programs, and others.

The deadline was August 25, 2006, for this year's project applications to be submitted through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Staff submitted these two applications to the MPO prior to this date, pending confirmation by City Council. The MPO needs early submission of the application packages in order to present the projects to the MPO Policy Committee at its September 21 meeting.

The City has previously received funding for several projects through this program, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (\$5,500,000); the Downtown Traffic Signal System (\$3,000,000); the East 14th Street Signal System (\$800,000); the East Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$580,000); and the Northwest Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$400,000).

Staff recommends that the City Council ratify and confirm the City Manager's action to submit applications through the Metropolitan Planning Organization to the Iowa Department of Transportation for ICAAP funds for the following projects:

1. East 14th Street Widening at Hull Avenue: This project consists of widening East 14th Street in the vicinity of Hull Avenue to a five-lane facility in order to provide left turning lanes on all four approaches. New traffic signals would also be installed. The estimated cost for this intersection portion is \$1,170,000, of which \$750,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested. The entire project, which involves widening of E. 14th Street between Arthur and Tiffin Avenues, is estimated at \$4,670,000.
2. Merle Hay Road Traffic Signal Interconnect Upgrade: This project will replace and extend the current signal interconnect system along Merle Hay Road between I-80/35 and University Avenue with a fiber optic system, connecting the traffic signals along this arterial street directly with the City's traffic operations center located at the Armory Building. Several traffic observation cameras would also be incorporated into the project to monitor traffic flows along this heavily traveled corridor. The estimated project construction cost is \$550,000, of which \$440,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested.

If approved, both projects would be scheduled for construction in 2008.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

Date: NA

Roll Call Number: NA

Action: NA

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

Date: NA

Roll Call Number: NA

Action: NA

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If approved, both projects would be scheduled for bids and construction in 2008.