



Council
Communication
 Office of the City Manager

Date	June 9, 2008
Agenda Item No.	7
Roll Call No.	08-
Communication No.	08- 330
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Traffic Safety Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit the applications to IDOT for Traffic Safety Funds for the four projects as outlined below. IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for Traffic Safety Fund improvements. The deadline for this year’s applications is June 15, 2008. Staff has reviewed various locations and has developed four projects for submittal: East Indianola Avenue Widening; SW 9th Street Widening; Hubbell Avenue and Easton Boulevard Traffic Signal Upgrading; and Sign Inventory Equipment Purchase.

FISCAL IMPACT: Proposed Traffic Safety Funding requests would be as follows:

1. East Indianola Avenue Widening – SE 14th Street to Jackson Elementary School

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$ 500,000
 Total Project Cost \$2,700,000

2. SW 9th Street Widening – Kenyon Avenue to Titus Avenue

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$ 500,000
 Total Project Cost \$2,200,000

3. Hubbell Avenue and Easton Boulevard – Traffic Signal Upgrading

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$ 130,000
 Total Project Cost \$ 130,000

4. Sign Inventory Equipment Purchase.

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$ 60,000
 Total Project Cost \$ 60,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash locations,

upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem.

Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 62 projects and almost \$14 million, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until June 15, 2008, for the next programming cycle. Staff has reviewed the accident history at various locations, and recommends that the following projects be submitted for the next funding cycle.

1. East Indianola Avenue Widening – SE 14th Street to Jackson Elementary School --This project would consist of widening East Indianola Avenue to a four-lane and five-lane cross-section, and is considered “Phase One” of the overall widening project from SE 14th Street to Army Post Road. New traffic signals are planned at Evergreen and at Watrous Avenues. This project is proposed to be funded from multiple sources, including Traffic Safety Funds, MPO Funds, congestion mitigation funding, and local funding. The total project cost is \$2.7 million, of which \$500,000 would be requested from Traffic Safety funding. This project is included in the current Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and construction is anticipated in FY 2010 if funding is approved.
2. SW 9th Street Widening – Kenyon Avenue to Titus Avenue--This project would widen SW 9th Street to a five-lane section, providing a center two-way left turn lane. Funding would be requested from multiple sources, including Traffic Safety Funding and Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds. The total project cost is \$2,200,000, of which \$500,000 would be requested from Traffic Safety funding. This project is not included in the current CIP, however, right-of-way acquisition would be anticipated in 2010 if this and other funding is secured.
3. Hubbell Avenue and Easton Boulevard – Traffic Signal Upgrading --This project would upgrade the existing traffic signals at Hubbell Avenue and Easton Boulevard. The estimated total project cost is \$130,000, all of which would be requested from Traffic Safety funding. Construction is anticipated in 2009 if funding is approved.
4. Sign Inventory Equipment Purchase –If approved, these funds would be used to purchase the necessary hardware and software for a sign inventory system to inventory and more closely manage the regulatory and warning signing that is installed throughout the City. New federal requirements on sign retro-reflectivity require that an inventory system and replacement program be in place to insure minimum sign night-time brightness levels. The estimated cost for this equipment/material is \$60,000, which will be requested from Traffic Safety Funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Date: May 13, 2008

Roll Call: N/A

Action: The Traffic Safety Committee approved staff's recommendation to submit these applications to IDOT for consideration in their Traffic Safety Improvement Program.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of project agreements with IDOT.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.