



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

September 22, 2008

Agenda Item No. 26
Roll Call No. 08-
Communication No. 08-573
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Submittal of STP and STP-TE Fund FY 2013 Applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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 2013 Fiscal Year. It is recommended that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below:

1. (STP) Major Construction Category: East Indianola Avenue Widening – McKinley Avenue to Army Post Road.
2. (STP) Major Construction Category: Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR Tracks to SW 63rd Street
3. (STP) Minor Construction Category: 9th Street and University Avenue Intersection Improvement
4. (STP) Preservation Category: Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
5. (STP) Preservation Category: South Union Street Bridge over Yeader Creek.
6. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection.
7. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Superblock Trail Connections.
8. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Highland Park Streetscape Project – Phase 2
9. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2
10. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Drake Area Streetscape Project

FISCAL IMPACT:

Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2008-09/2013-14 CIP and will be included in future CIP's if the applications are successful.

1. East Indianola Avenue Widening – McKinley Avenue to Army Post Road

	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 2,200,000
	Total Project Cost	\$16,000,000
2.	Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR Tracks to SW 63 rd Street	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$1,100,000
	Total Project Cost	\$4,500,000
3.	9 th Street and University Avenue Intersection Improvement	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000
4.	Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$4,200,000
5.	South Union Street Bridge over the Easter Lake Spillway	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$400,000
	Total Project Cost	\$900,000
6.	Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000

Local matching funds for the following projects are not included in the 2007-08/2012-13 CIP but will be included in future CIP's if the applications are successful.

7.	Superblock Trail Connections	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000
8.	Highland Park Streetscape Project – Phase 2	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 380,000
	Total Project Cost	\$1,900,000
9.	Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 410,000
	Total Project Cost	\$1,400,000

10. Drake Area Streetscape Project

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 350,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,750,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP and STP-TE funds for FY 2013. The applications must be submitted to the MPO by September 26, 2008. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

STP PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP project applications are requested for FY 2013, with 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:

Major Construction Category:1. East Indianola Avenue Widening – McKinley Avenue to Army Post Road

This portion of a previously submitted larger project consists of widening and paving East Indianola Avenue from McKinley Avenue south to Army Post Road. A four-lane divided roadway is planned for this portion of the corridor, with bike lanes in the roadway and a separate multipurpose trail along the west side of the street, along with other amenities to provide a “Complete Streets” type of facility. The estimated total project cost (from SE 14th to Army Post) is \$16 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$2.2 million of FY2013 funding, which would bring the total STP funding level to \$8 million, or 50% of the total project cost.

2. Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement Plant RR Tracks to SW 63rd Street

This project consists of widening Park Avenue from the Monarch Cement Railroad tracks east of SW 56th Street west to SW 63rd Street. A four-lane divided roadway is proposed. The estimated project cost is \$4.5 million. The City plans to submit an application for the first year of a two-year “multi-year” request, which would be for \$1.1 million of FY2013 funds.

Minor Construction Category:3. 9th Street and University Avenue Intersection Improvement

This project would consist of widening University Avenue at 9th Street in order to provide east-west left-turning lanes to enhance the safety and traffic flow of this intersection. New traffic signals would also be installed. The estimated project cost is \$1 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$500,000 for FY2013.

Preservation Category:

4. Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River

This project consists of bridge repair and bridge deck overlay of this structure. The estimated project cost is \$4.2 million. The City plans to request \$500,000 for FY2013.

5. South Union Street Bridge over Yeader Creek

This project consists of bridge repair and bridge deck overlay of this structure, which is located on South Union Street south of McKinley Avenue. The estimated project cost is \$900,000. The City plans to request \$400,000 for FY2013.

STP-TE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP-TE project applications are requested for FY 2013. 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 Parks and Recreation staff have reviewed a number of potential projects, and recommend the following projects for submittal to the MPO for TE funding.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails:

6. Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection

This project will involve the construction of a trail connecting Ewing Park and Easter Lake Park in the City of Des Moines. The project is a cooperative effort of the City of Des Moines and the Polk County Conservation Board. The trail will be 10 feet wide and constructed of asphalt. The trail will connect the two parks, starting at the north side of Ewing Park and connecting to the beach area in Easter Lake Park, with a pedestrian underpass at Indianola Avenue in Ewing Park and a small bridge across the west end of Easter Lake. This trail segment will also provide a connection to the planned regional trail system in the southeast part of the metro area. The total estimated cost for this project is \$1 million, of which the City and Polk County Conservation Board will request \$500,000 of FY 2013 TE funds.

7. Superblock Trails Connections

The "SuperBlock" trails are a series of multi-use trails running through the heart of the Des Moines SuperBlock, which is a master plan for expansion of the Blank Park Zoo and for the enhancement of Fort Des Moines Park, Blank Park Golf Course, Southridge Mall and multiple other recreational and cultural amenities on the south side of Des Moines. The trail planned through the SuperBlock will be a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail that is constructed of asphalt and be two miles in length. This trail will connect the Zoo, Fort Des Moines Park, Blank Park Golf Course and South Ridge Mall together by trail. Total costs are estimated to be \$1 million and the City is requesting \$500,000 of FY 2013 TE funds.

Scenic/Environmental:

8. Highland Park Streetscape Project – Phase 2

This project is a continuation of the Highland Park Streetscape Project that was previously funded by the MPO. The original project, which focused on the intersection of 6th and Euclid Avenues, was completed in Fall 2004 and consisted of an historic entry arch, historical marker, new sidewalks, curbs, vintage style street and pedestrian lights, pedestrian amenities, trees, flower pots and street resurfacing, as well as other infrastructure improvements. Phase II of this project would expand the project along Euclid Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) from the current terminus of the project, just east of 6th Avenue, to Cornell Street. It would include new sidewalks and curbs, vintage style street and pedestrian lights, benches and flower pots. The estimated cost of this phase is \$1.9 million with STP-TE funding requested in the amount of \$380,000, which is 20% of the estimated project cost.

9. Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project

The City of Des Moines has partnered with the Ingersoll Avenue community to create the Ingersoll Avenue Improvement Plan. This document includes recommendations for streetscape, parking, and traffic improvements, as well as recommendations for redevelopment projects and policy changes for the corridor from the 17th Street intersection to the 42nd Street intersection. The Ingersoll planning area is relatively large, so streetscape improvements must be made in phases. Phase One from 28th Street to 31st Street is currently under construction, and will be completed later this year.

The City is requesting \$410,000 in FY2013 STP-TE funds for Phase Two to implement the pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and streetlight components of the plan and the related streetscape improvements from 31st Street to 35th Street. The total cost for this phase of the project is estimated to be \$1.4 million.

10. Drake Area Streetscape Project

This project will improve the linkage between Drake University and the neighborhood commercial and residential areas along University and Forest Avenues. The project elements will include sidewalk improvements, new street and pedestrian lights, pedestrian amenities, bicycle lanes on Forest Avenue, and way-finding signage. This project would encompass University and Forest Avenues from M. L. King Parkway to 31st Street. The estimated cost of this project is \$1.75 million with STP-TE funding requested in the amount of \$350,000, which is 20% of the estimated project cost.

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.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

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