



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date August 24, 2009

Agenda Item No. 5
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-603
Submitted by: **Job 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) Citywide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project (\$320,000), and (2) Des Moines River Trail, Phase 1 (\$500,000).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to submit two applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) funding. The two projects recommended by staff are: (1) Citywide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project, and (2) Des Moines River Trail, Phase 1. The goal of the ICAAP is to reduce congestion and thereby improve air quality.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: The estimated construction cost for the Citywide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project is \$400,000. \$320,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested for this project. The City's share would be 20 percent, or \$80,000. In addition, the City would be responsible for project related design/inspection services estimated at \$60,000.

The estimated construction cost for the Des Moines River Trail, Phase 1 is \$1 million. \$500,000 of ICAAP funding is being requested for this project. The City would be responsible for \$500,000. In addition, the City would be responsible for project related design/inspection services estimated at \$200,000.

Funding Source: Depending on receipt of the IDOT funding grants, City matching funding would be programmed in future CIP budgets.

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. IDOT 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 for this year's project applications was August 21, 2009, and the applications were submitted through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to the IDOT. 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 meeting.

The City has previously received funding for a number of projects through this program, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (\$5,500,000); the Downtown Traffic Signal System (\$3,000,000); and East 14th and Hull Intersection Improvements (\$750,000).

Staff recommends that the City Council ratify and confirm the City Manager's action to submit applications through the MPO to the IDOT for ICAAP funds for the following projects:

1. Citywide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project: This project will upgrade approximately 20 existing "fixed-time" traffic signals by installing side-street vehicle and pedestrian detection. The locations will be along several of the City's arterial roadways, including Grand Avenue, University Avenue, and 2nd Avenue. The project will improve air quality by enhancing traffic flow and reducing unnecessary stops and delays through these heavy traffic corridors. The estimated project cost is \$460,000, of which \$320,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.
2. Des Moines River Trail, Phase 1: This project will be a multi-use trail that follows the south side of the Des Moines River from the confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers to the Cownie Soccer Park on Des Moines' southeast side. Total distance of the trail is 2.5 miles and it will be 10 feet in width. The trail will be a major component in the City's bicycle network which is aiming to encourage more people to commute by bicycle instead of driving. The trail will have direct connections to SE 1st, SE 6th, SE 8th, SE 14th and SE 22nd Streets. There will be easy access from the residential neighborhoods on the City's southeast side, creating a direct route for bicyclists to the downtown area. It is expected that this trail will become a major commuter route for bicyclists. The project will improve air quality by removing vehicle trips from the roadway network, replacing them with bicycle commuters. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million, of which \$500,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

If approved, both projects would be scheduled for construction in 2011.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 18, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-822

Action: Approving Professional Services Agreements for the following:

(A) AECOM, Inc. in conjunction with the Des Moines River Regional Trail – Phase 1, not to exceed \$202,000. (Council Communication No. 09-330)

) Moved by Kiernan to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of project agreements with IDOT.

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