



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

September 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 72
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-651
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Submittal of Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Surface Transportation Program-Traffic Enhancement (STP-TE) Fund FY 2014 Applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is soliciting project applications for STP funds and for STP-TE funds for the 2014 Fiscal Year. It is recommended that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below:

1. (STP) Major Construction Category: Southeast Connector Improvement – SE 14th Street to SE 18th Street
2. (STP) Major Construction Category: East Indianola Avenue Widening – McKinley Avenue to Army Post Road
3. (STP) Major Construction Category: Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR Tracks to SW 63rd Street
4. (STP) Major Construction Category: East Douglas Avenue Widening – E 42nd Street to E 56th Street
5. (STP) Minor Construction Category: Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue Intersection Improvement
6. (STP) Preservation Category: Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
7. (STP) Preservation Category: South Union Street Bridge over Yeader Creek
8. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection
9. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Superblock Trail Connections
10. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Drake Area Streetscape Project
11. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: SE 14th Street Beautification at McKinley Avenue

FISCAL IMPACT:

Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2009-10/2014-15 CIP and will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

- 1. Southeast Connector Improvement – SE 14th Street to SE 18th Street
 - Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested \$ 6,000,000
 - Total Project Cost \$ 7,500,000

- 2. East Indianola Avenue Widening – McKinley Avenue to Army Post Road
 - Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested \$ 1,000,000
 - Total Project Cost \$16,000,000

- 3. Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR Tracks to SW 63rd Street
 - Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested \$ 2,000,000
 - Total Project Cost \$ 4,500,000

- 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 Yeader Creek
 - 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 \$ 400,000
 - Total Project Cost \$ 1,000,000

Local matching funds for the following projects are not included in the 2009-10/2014-15 CIP but will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

- 7. East Douglas Avenue Widening Project – E 42nd Street to E 56th Street
 - Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested \$ 1,000,000
 - Total Project Cost \$ 9,000,000

- 8. Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue Intersection Improvement
 - Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested \$ 300,000
 - Total Project Cost \$ 1,800,000

- 9. Superblock Trail Connections

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,000,000

10. Drake Area Streetscape Project

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 300,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 2,000,000

11. SE 14th Street Beautification at McKinley Avenue

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 300,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,000,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP and STP-TE funds for FY 2014. The applications must be submitted to the MPO by September 25, 2009. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

STP PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP project applications are requested for FY 2014, 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. Southeast Connector Improvement – SE 14th Street to SE 18th Street

This funding request involves the first year of a multi-year funding proposal for the next phase of the Southeast Connector. The project would construct a four or six lane divided roadway along a new alignment north of Scott Avenue. Bike lanes are planned to be included in the roadway, and a multipurpose trail would also be constructed. The estimated total project cost is \$7.5 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$6 million of FY2014 funding.

2. 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 being 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 \$1 million of FY2014 funding.

3. 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 \$2 million of FY2014 funds.

4. East Douglas Avenue Widening Project – E 42nd Street to E 56th Street

This project would involve widening East Douglas Avenue to a three-lane roadway between E 42nd Street and E 56th Street. The estimated project cost is \$9 million. The City plans to submit an application for \$1 million of FY2014 funds.

Minor Construction Category:

5. Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue Intersection Improvement

This project consists of improving the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue. Two alternatives are currently being considered, including a roundabout alternative. The project would be consistent and compatible with the Beaverdale Village Streetscape Design. The estimated cost of this project is \$1.8 million with STP funding requested in the amount of \$300,000. This work would be part of the Beaverdale Streetscape initiative.

Preservation Category:

6. 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 FY2014.

7. 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 FY2014.

STP-TE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP-TE project applications are requested for FY 2014. 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:

8. 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 \$1.0 million, of which the City and Polk County Conservation Board will request \$400,000 of FY 2014 TE funds.

9. 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 \$1.0 million and the City is requesting \$500,000 of FY 2014 TE funds.

Scenic/Environmental:

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 \$2 million with STP-TE funding requested in the amount of \$300,000.

11. SE 14th Street Beautification Project at McKinley Avenue

This project will improve the intersection at McKinley Avenue and SE 14th Street and provide enhanced access for pedestrians, as well as provide an aesthetic improvement for both adjacent neighborhoods and the estimated 30,000 vehicles that utilize the SE 14th Street corridor each day. This project will consist of sidewalk improvements, decorative plantings, new street lights, and pedestrian amenities. The estimated project cost is \$1 million, with STP-TE funding requested in the amount of \$300,000.

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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