

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Council Communication</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	November 8, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 13 Roll Call No. <u>10-1825</u> Communication No. <u>10-680</u> Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer	

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Submittal of STP and STP-TE Fund FY 2015 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 2015 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 30th Street, request of \$8,000,000
2. (STP) Minor Construction Category: SW 9th Street and Kenyon Avenue Intersection Improvement, request of \$500,000
3. (STP) Preservation Category: Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River, request of \$500,000
4. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection, request of \$250,000
5. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Neal Smith Trail Renovation, request of \$300,000
6. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Drake Area Streetscape Project, request of \$120,000
7. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Highland Park Streetscape Project –Phase 2, request of \$230,000
8. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project –Phase 2, request of \$410,000

FISCAL IMPACT:

A portion of the local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2010-11/2015-16 CIP and additional local funds will be included in future CIPs as necessary if the applications are successful.

1. Southeast Connector Improvement – SE 14th Street to SE 30th Street

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 8,000,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 65,000,000

2.	SW 9 th Street and Kenyon Avenue Intersection Improvement	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 2,300,000
3.	Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 4,200,000
4.	Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 250,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 1,000,000
5.	Neal Smith Trail Renovation	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 300,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 750,000
6.	Drake Area Streetscape Project	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 120,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 2,000,000
7.	Highland Park Streetscape Project – Phase 2	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 230,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 1,900,000
8.	Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 410,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 1,400,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP and STP-TE funds for FY 2015. The applications must be submitted to the MPO by November 19, 2010. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

STP PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP project applications are requested for FY 2015. 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 30th 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 lane divided roadway along a new alignment north of Scott Avenue, including a new railroad overpass in the vicinity of SE 22nd Street. This project will be constructed as a Complete Street, with bike lanes included in the roadway and a multipurpose trail along one side and sidewalk on the other side. The estimated total project cost is \$65 million. The City plans to submit a request for \$8 million of FY2015 funds, with an additional request for \$8 million each in FY2016 and FY2017.

The Southeast Connector is the City's highest priority transportation project, and staff will aggressively seek out all available sources of funding, in addition to this STP funding through the MPO, to complete this section as soon as possible. This section may be suitable for phased construction that could expedite a two or three-lane roadway extending east from SE 14th Street to the new Kemin Industries expanded development near SE 20th Street. Anticipated sources of funding include Federal STP funds through the MPO, Federal appropriations, Federal railroad safety funds, Federal Congestion and Air Quality Mitigation funds, State RISE funds, private railroad funds, City TIF or GO bonds, and any other applicable sources of funding that may become available. The City has used this same type of funding strategy to successfully complete the sections of the Southeast Connector extending east across the Des Moines River to SE 9th Street and scheduled to be completed to SE 14th Street in 2012.

Minor Construction Category:

2. SW 9th Street and Kenyon Avenue Intersection Improvement

This project consists of improving the intersection of SW 9th Street and Kenyon Avenue. SW 9th Street would be widened to allow for a center two-way left turn lane. The intersection widening would be incorporated into a larger project that would extend the two-way left turn lane between previous projects constructed at McKinley Avenue and at Porter Avenue. The estimated cost of this project is \$2.3 million. The City plans to request \$500,000 for FY2015.

Preservation Category:

3. 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 FY2015.

STP-TE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP-TE project applications are requested for FY2015. 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:

4. Ewing Park – Easter Lake Park Trail Connection

This project will involve the construction of a 10-foot wide asphalt or concrete trail connecting Ewing Park and Easter Lake Park in the City of Des Moines. The overall project, which includes

a loop around Polk County's Easter Lake Park, is a cooperative effort of the City of Des Moines and the Polk County Conservation Board. The portion of the trail in this application is within Ewing Park. 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. A pedestrian underpass at Indianola Avenue near a parking lot in Ewing Park has already been funded, and will be constructed with the reconstruction of Indianola Avenue. This trail segment will 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 will request \$250,000 FY2015 TE funds.

5. Neal Smith Trail Renovation

This project will involve the reconstruction of a 2-mile segment of the Neal Smith Trail from the Kiwanis Nature Island north to the City's limits. The existing trail will be widened to 12 feet and constructed of asphalt or concrete. This trail is a portion of a 22.5 mile north-south spine for both bicycle commuters and recreational trail users traveling between Big Creek State Park and Saylorville Lake to the north and downtown Des Moines to the south, following the east side of the Des Moines River. The trail has deteriorated over the years and is in need of resurfacing as well as widening due to increasing trail usage. The total estimated cost for this project is \$750,000, of which the City will request \$300,000 of FY2015 TE funds.

Scenic/Environmental:

6. Drake Area Streetscape Project

This project will improve the linkage between Drake University and the neighborhood commercial and residential areas along University Avenue. Later phases of the project would include improvements along Forest Avenue. The project elements will include sidewalk improvements, new street and pedestrian lights, pedestrian amenities, and way-finding signage. The project would encompass the area between M. L. King Parkway and 31st Street. The estimated cost for this project is \$2.0 million, of which the City will request \$120,000 of FY2015 funds.

7. Highland Park Streetscape Project – Phase 2

This project will extend the design of the previously constructed Phase 1 improvements eastward along the Euclid Avenue corridor, including the area in front of the Park Fair Mall. Improvements will include sidewalk replacement, vintage style street and pedestrian lighting, street furnishings, and planters within this historic business district. The estimated project cost is \$1.9 million, of which the City will request \$230,000 of FY2015 funds.

8. Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2

The City of Des Moines has partnered with the Ingersoll Avenue community to create the Ingersoll Avenue Improvement Plan. This document generally 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 1, between 28th Street and 31st Street, has already been constructed. The project cost for Phase 2, which extends between 31st Street and 35th Street, is estimated to be \$1,400,000. The City will request \$410,000 in FY2015 funds.

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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