



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date:	August 8, 2011
Agenda Item No.	9
Roll Call No.	<u>11-1352</u>
Communication No.	<u>11-508</u>
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorize the City Manager to submit an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Fund Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the (1) Traffic Observation Camera System and Downtown Wayfinding CMS System Upgrade (\$270,000); and (2) Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 1 (\$330,000).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to submit applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for FY2013 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) funding. The projects recommended by staff are (1) Traffic Observation Camera System and Downtown Wayfinding Changeable Message Sign (CMS) System Upgrade, and (2) Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 1. The goal of the ICAAP is to reduce congestion and thereby improve air quality.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: ICAAP funds in the amount of \$440,000 are requested for these two projects. The remaining funds of \$160,000 would be from future CIP projects.

Funding Source: Depending on receipt of IDOT funding grants, City matching funding will be programmed in future CIP projects.

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. The 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 is August 19, 2011, and the applications are submitted through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to the IDOT. The MPO needs early submission of the application packages in order to present the projects to the MPO Policy Committee at its

September meeting.

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit two applications through the MPO to the IDOT for ICAAP funds for the following projects:

Traffic Observation Camera System and Downtown Wayfinding CMS System Upgrade: This project has two components. The first will upgrade the City's eight older traffic observation cameras to new IP-addressable cameras. The existing cameras are at or beyond their expected life, and several require on-going maintenance to keep them operational. These cameras allow Traffic and Transportation staff to quickly monitor traffic conditions and make appropriate changes, including signal timing adjustments, to assist in traffic flow. The second component would be for the installation of the remaining four CMS (Changeable Message Board) signs that were originally planned as part of the previous "Downtown Wayfinding Signing" project that was constructed in 2007-2008. Due to funding constraints, these signs could not be included in the original project, and ICAAP funding is being requested to now install these four signs, which would be located on Fleur Drive, SW 2nd Street, SW 6th Street, and Grand Avenue. These signs supplement the parking system "full/open" electronic signing and assist drivers in responding to events or construction in the downtown area. The estimated project cost is \$270,000, which includes construction costs (\$250,000) plus design/inspection costs (\$20,000). \$200,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 1: This project would utilize several bikeway facility types (bike lanes, shared lanes, etc.) to develop access to and through the downtown area. Bike improvements are recommended for Grand Avenue, Locust Street 5th Avenue, Ingersoll Avenue/High Street, West Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Cottage Grove, and other downtown streets. These downtown improvements will formalize much-needed access to downtown destinations, employment centers, the new downtown transit hub, and retail outlets. The bike improvements will also connect with several downtown green spaces including the new sculpture park and the extensive trail networks along the rivers. This project has been identified as one of three "Priority Projects" in the City of Des Moines "Bicycle and Trail Master Plan, which was approved by City Council on June 13, 2011. The estimated project cost is \$330,000, which includes construction costs (\$300,000) plus design/inspection costs (\$30,000). \$240,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of project agreements with IDOT.

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