

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Council Communication</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> November 7, 2011
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> [                    ] <b>Roll Call No.</b> [                    ] <b>Communication No.</b> <u>11-680</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> <b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.</b> <b>City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorizing Submittal of STP and STP-TE Fund FY 2016 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 2016 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
2. (STP) Major Construction Category: Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR Tracks to SW 63rd Street
3. (STP) Preservation Category: Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
4. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Ewing Park and Easter Lake Circumferential Trail
5. (STP-TE) Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails: Waveland Trail – I-235 to University Avenue
6. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Drake Area Streetscape Project
7. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project –Phase 2
8. (STP-TE) Scenic/Environmental: 6th Avenue Streetscape Project

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2011-12/2016-17 CIP and will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

1. Southeast Connector Improvement – SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street to SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street

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

2.	Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement RR tracks to SW 63 <sup>rd</sup> Street	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 3,000,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 4,500,000
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 and Easter Lake Circumferential Trail	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 400,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 1,400,000

Local matching funds for the following projects are not fully funded in the 2011-12/2016-17 CIP, but will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

5.	Waveland Trail – I-235 to University Avenue	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 250,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 400,000
6.	Drake Area Streetscape Project	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 120,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 2,000,000
7.	Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 328,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 1,400,000
8.	6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Streetscape Project	
	Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 250,000
	Total Project Cost	\$ 3,700,000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP and STP TE funds for FY 2016. The applications must be submitted to the MPO by November 18, 2011. Funding is divided into two major categories, as further identified below:

**STP PROJECT APPLICATIONS**

STP project applications are requested for FY 2016. 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 second 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 FY2016 funds, with an additional request for \$8 million in 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. The City was recently awarded \$12.7 million in State RISE funds.

2. Park Avenue Widening – Monarch Cement 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 request a total of \$3.0 million of FY2016 funds.

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 of FY2016 funds.

#### STP-TE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

STP-TE project applications are requested for FY2016. 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 and Easter Lake Circumferential Trail

This will be a joint application with Polk County Conservation for the western two miles of the Ewing Park and Easter Lake Circumferential Trail. This trail will connect to the trail underpass under Indianola Avenue and continue around the west end of Easter Lake Park to connect to the park roads on both the north and south sides of the park. Future phases will complete a 4.8 mile circumferential loop around the lake and tie into the Des Moines to Carlisle Regional Trail.

The City has already been awarded funding for FY 14 and FY 15 for the portion of the Ewing Park and Easter Lake Circumferential Trail that is located in Ewing Park. This award totals \$375,936. Polk County also has received funding for FY 15 in the amount of \$159,000 for the two-mile western portion of the trail, which includes the Ewing Park portion. The total estimated cost for this project is \$1.4 million, of which the City and County application will request \$400,000 of FY2016 TE funds.

#### 5. Waveland Trail – I-235 to University Avenue

The Waveland Trail currently connects to the Walnut Creek Trail at the southern end and runs through the Waterbury Neighborhood north to I-235 at 56th Street. On the north end, it stretches from the Northwest Community Center on Franklin Avenue south to University Avenue. There is a missing 0.5-mile section between University and I-235. The sidewalk connection in this missing section between the two Waveland Trail sections is too narrow for safe two-way bicycle and pedestrian travel. The safety concern is magnified by the steep hill, such that bicyclists coming downhill tend to be traveling quite fast, which can lead to collisions with slower moving cyclists or pedestrians. The MPO identifies this section as a “gap;” therefore, they will consider it to be a priority for funding. The estimated cost of this trail is \$400,000 of which the City will request \$250,000 of FY2016 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. The project would encompass the area between M. L. King Parkway and 31st Street, and include sidewalk improvements, new street and pedestrian lights, pedestrian amenities, and way-finding signage. Later phases of the project would include improvements along Forest Avenue. A total of \$280,000 in STP-TE funds have been awarded to this project to date. The estimated cost for this project is \$2.0 million, of which the City will request \$120,000 of FY2016 TE funds.

#### 7. Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape Project – Phase 2

The City of Des Moines has partnered with the Ingersoll 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 been constructed. A total of \$328,000 in STP-TE funds have been awarded to Phase 2 to date. The project cost for Phase 2 is estimated to be \$1,400,000, of which the City will request \$328,000 in FY2016 TE funds.

#### 8. 6th Avenue Streetscape Project

This project consists of streetscape enhancements on 6th Avenue between I-235 and Hickman Road that will improve pedestrian safety by offering wider sidewalks and improved lighting. Decorative street-lights, street trees, and flower planters are planned for the corridor. The roadway would be reconfigured as a two-lane road with a dedicated center turn lane and permanent on-street parking along the east curb line. The estimated project cost is \$3,700,000, of which the City will request \$250,000 of FY2016 TE 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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