

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	March 26, 2012
	Agenda Item No.	50
	Roll Call No.	[_____]
	Communication No.	<u>12-144</u>
	Submitted by:	Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to make funds available in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Park and Ride account for Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) Authority's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project.

SYNOPSIS:

DART has proposed to apply to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for a “very small starts” competitive grant to build a BRT system in Des Moines. The grant of \$20 million will require \$5 million local match. This action approves \$1 million of City funds toward the local match for this grant. The balance of the local match funding will come from other, non-City sources as identified by DART.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,000,000

Funding Source: Park and Ride

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

As part of the DART Forward 2035 Plan, DART has proposed to build a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system for the Des Moines metro area. This system will connect the Ingersoll business and restaurant district with Drake Campus, Downtown Des Moines, and the new DART Central Station. The route is a two-way loop on University and Ingersoll Avenue between 42nd Street and downtown. The downtown portion of the route will run east west on Grand Avenue and Locust Street, and north-south on 6th Avenue and 7th Street, with a stop at DART Central Station. The route is approximately 7.6 miles in length.

This system is unique from a regular bus system in that it is designed to deliver “rail-like” service using “rubber-wheeled” vehicles. The entire DART BRT system will be branded differently than the rest of the DART system. The buses have a sleek modern look and the stops are referred to as “stations” and designed as such. The buses will be modern low floor hybrid buses featuring a unique color scheme and logo identifying them as part of the DART BRT system. Each full station will be fully ADA Compliant with a modern shelter, benches, waiting area, and real time bus arrival information. There are approximately 20 stations planned along the route every ¼ to ½ mile. The BRT will have faster headways, or time between each bus, than what a normal route will provide. This is done through the reduced number of stops, additional buses, and using state of the practice technology to better monitor control operations to improve timeliness and reliability.

The funding for this consists of a grant from the FTA and a local match. DART will apply for \$20 million of Federal funds under the “very small starts” competitive grant funding. DART is now in

the process of raising the local match from various governmental and private entities. This Council action is to commit \$1 million of Park and Ride funds, toward this project. If the Federal grant were awarded, the City would need to provide the funds to DART by summer of 2014.

This project includes stations along Ingersoll Avenue. If DART is successful in obtaining the Federal grant and the local match, then the timing of the planned Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape project should be considered. While it is possible to build the BRT stations without constructing the entire streetscape, there would be constructability advantages to concurrently building two projects. If the Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape project is built concurrently, then general obligation funds from the Streetscape CIP account, storm and sanitary funds must be reprogrammed to the appropriate fiscal year.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Normal Capital and Operating Budget approvals.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.