

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> June 25, 2012
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Agenda Item No.</b> 34  <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>12-993</u>  <b>Communication No.</b> <u>12-348</u>  <b>Submitted by:</b> Phillip Delafield,  <b>Community Development Director</b></p>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approve the submission of a Letter of Interest to the EPA Greening America's Capitals Program.

**SYNOPSIS:**

The Office of Sustainable Communities in the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Policy is seeking letters of interest from state capital cities that want to develop in ways that reflect the principles of smart growth, green building, and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The EPA will select up to five state capital cities to participate in this program and will provide a team of designers to visit the city for up to three days to produce schematic designs and illustrations to catalyze or complement a larger planning process for the pilot neighborhood.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The goal of Greening America's Capitals is to help state capital cities create a clear, implementable vision of distinct, environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green building and green infrastructure systems. The City of Des Moines has taken a number of steps in recent years to become a more environmentally responsible community, including the creation of the Mayor's Task Force on Energy Conservation and Environmental Enhancement in 2006.

This is the third year for the Greening America's Capitals program. In 2010, the cities of Boston, Massachusetts; Charleston, West Virginia; Hartford, Connecticut; Jefferson City, Missouri; and Little Rock, Arkansas were selected to participate in the program. In 2011, the cities of Lincoln, Nebraska; Jackson, Mississippi; Montgomery, Alabama; Phoenix, Arizona; and Washington, D.C. were selected to participate in the program. For 2012, the EPA is looking to select three (3) to five (5) capital cities to participate. EPA will provide assistance through an Agency contract vehicle, not a grant. The EPA will fund a team of designers to visit the City for up to three (3) days to produce schematic designs and illustrations to catalyze or complement a larger planning process for the pilot neighborhood.

The City will request the EPA's assistance through the Greening America's Capitals program to develop a green infrastructure plan for multiple community benefits. The 6th Avenue corridor between I-235 and Hickman Road will serve as the pilot area for this planning/technical assistance project. This will complement the streetscape and public art planning effort that is already underway for 6th Avenue. The green infrastructure plan will focus on how permeable pavement could be incorporated along the corridor, as well as identify other green infrastructure elements to be considered in the streetscape design.

While the 6th Avenue will serve as the pilot area for this project. The lessons learned from this exercise would be applied to streetscape projects that have been proposed elsewhere in the city. Additionally, the technical assistance on permeable pavement could lead to the development of standards that would guide the implementation of permeable pavement in other development applications such as streets, alleys, on-street parking areas, parking lots, sidewalks, trails, etc. Identification of key issues and cost of maintenance of this type of green infrastructure in the Midwestern climate will be included in the discussion.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 27, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1162](#)

Action: Letter of Interest to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greening America's Capitals Program.. ([Council Communication No. 11-432](#)). Moved by Moore to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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