

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Council Communication</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	March 25, 2013
	Agenda Item No.	5
	Roll Call No.	<u>13-0440</u>
	Communication No.	<u>13-134</u>
	Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Submittal of STP Transportation Alternatives Program Fund FY 2017 Applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Area MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for the 2017 Fiscal Year. These were formally known as the Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. It is recommended that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below:

1. Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities - New Construction Category: Des Moines River Trail, Phase 2
2. Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities - New Construction Category: Waveland Trail, I-235 to University Avenue
3. Streetscape Category: 6th Avenue Streetscape Project, Phase 1
4. Streetscape Category: Highland Park Streetscape Project, Phase 2
5. Streetscape Category: Ingersoll Streetscape, Phase 2

FISCAL IMPACT:

Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2013-14/2018-19 CIP and will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

1. Waveland Trail, I-235 to University – Complete missing 0.5 mile segment

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 100,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 400,000

2. 6th Avenue Streetscape, Phase 1 – Hickman Road to College Avenue

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 250,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,400,000

3. Highland Park Streetscape Project, Phase 2 – 6th Avenue to Cornell Street

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 150,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,900,000

4. Ingersoll Streetscape, Phase 2 – 31st Street to 35th Street

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 150,000
Total Project Cost	\$2,100,000

Local matching funds for the following projects are not fully funded in the 2013-14/2018-19 CIP, but will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

1. Des Moines River Trail, Phase 2 – James W. Cownie Sports Complex to Easter Lake Park

Surface Transportation Program Funds Requested	\$ 300,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The MPO is soliciting project applications for Federal STP TAP funds for FY 2017. The applications were required to be submitted to the MPO on March 8, 2013. STP TAP was formally known as the TE funding requests. This change was made as part of MAP-21.

The MPO has established the following categories of STP TAP projects:

TAP Funding Category

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

New Construction

Major Reconstruction

Streetscape

Environmental

Safe Routes to School

Infrastructure

Non-Infrastructure

Staff has reviewed a number of potential projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for STP funding:

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities (New Construction) Category:1. Des Moines River Trail, Phase 2 – James W. Cownie Sports Complex to Easter Lake Park

This project is for the second phase (a two-mile segment) of the Des Moines River Trail, a major 4.5 mile regional trail that will connect downtown Des Moines to Polk County's Easter Lake Trail and future trails leading to the City of Carlisle and the Summerset National Recreation Trail. This phase of the trail will run along the south side of the Des Moines River, through wooded open space areas and connect James W. Cownie Sports Complex to Easter Lake Park.

2. Waveland Trail, I-235 to University – Complete missing 0.5 mile segment

This project will complete a missing 0.5 mile segment of the Waveland Trail, which is located along the east side of 56th Street between I-235 and University Avenue. The trail will tie together existing Waveland Trail segments, which stretch north from University Avenue to Franklin Avenue and south

from I-235 to the Walnut Creek Trail. When the gap is completed, the trail will be a continuous 2.2 mile length.

Streetscape Projects Category:

1. 6th Avenue Streetscape, Phase 1 – Hickman Road to College Avenue

This project will address a number of deficiencies that currently exist along 6th Avenue. The proposed project focuses on providing a safer, more inviting environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. The project will provide wider sidewalks and crosswalk improvements, new street and pedestrian lights, pedestrian amenities, shared-use road with bicycle sharrows and signage, bicycle parking near businesses and service agencies, as well as landscaping and street trees where appropriate. This project would enhance the larger, ongoing revitalization efforts that are underway and being led by the 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc., an Iowa Main Street organization. A streetscape plan has been prepared for the 1.2 mile long project area but the project will be divided into three (3) phases for construction. Funding is being requested for Phase 1 of the project, which has been identified as the area between Hickman Road and College Avenue.

2. Highland Park Streetscape Project, Phase 2 - 6th Avenue to Cornell Street

This project is a continuation of the Highland Park Streetscape. The original project, which focused on the intersection of 6th Avenue and Euclid Avenue, was completed in 2004. The project included a gateway entry arch, historical marker, new sidewalks, curbs, vintage style street and pedestrian lighting, pedestrian amenities, street trees, flower pots, and street resurfacing, as well as other infrastructure improvements. Phase 2 of this project would expand the streetscape enhancements along Euclid Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) from where the original project stopped just east of 6th Avenue to Cornell Street. It would include new sidewalks and curbs, vintage style, street and pedestrian lights and flower pots. The estimated cost of this phase is \$1.9 million. The City has previously received \$378,000 in STP-TE funding for Phase 2.

3. Ingersoll Streetscape, Phase 2 – 31st Street to 35th Street

This project consists of building elements included in the Ingersoll Avenue Improvement Plan. This document recommends streetscape, parking, and traffic improvements, as well as recommendations for redevelopment projects and policy changes for the corridor from 17th Street to 42nd Street. The Ingersoll planning area is large, so streetscape improvements must be made in phases. Phase 1, between 28th Street and 31st Street has already been constructed.

Each MPO funding application for STP 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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