

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 9, 2013
	Agenda Item No. 8 Roll Call No. <u>13-1375</u> Communication No. <u>13-457</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:

- (A) The Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 2;
- (B) City-wide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project – Phase 2; and
- (C) Northeast Des Moines Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to submit applications to the IDOT for FY2015 ICAAP funding. The projects recommended by staff are (A) Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 2 (\$480,000); (B) City-wide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project – Phase 2 (\$675,000); and (C) Northeast Des Moines Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study (\$280,000). The goal of the ICAAP is to reduce congestion and thereby improve air quality.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:

- (A) Downtown Bicycle Implementation – Phase: Estimated project cost is \$480,000, of which \$400,000 is construction costs and \$80,000 is design/inspection costs; \$320,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested, and the remaining \$160,000 from future CIP funding, “Bicycle and Trails Master Plan Implementation”.
- (B) City-wide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project – Phase 2: Estimated project cost is \$675,000, of which \$600,000 is construction costs and \$75,000 is design/inspection costs; \$480,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested, and the remaining (\$195,000) from future CIP funding, “Traffic Signals, Channelization, and School Crossings”.
- (C) Northeast Des Moines Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study: Estimated project cost is \$280,000, of which \$30,000 is City staff costs; \$200,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested, and the remaining \$80,000 from future CIP funding, “Bicycle and Trails Master Plan Implementation”.

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

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 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 September 13, 2013, 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 three (3) applications through the MPO to the IDOT for ICAAP funds for the following projects:

A. Downtown Bicycle Plan Implementation – Phase 2: This project will utilize several bikeway facility types (bike lanes, shared lanes, etc.) to develop additional access to and through the downtown area. The project would help to complete the improvements proposed as part of the downtown portion of the City's Bike and Trails Master Plan. Phase 1 of this project was previously funded by ICAAP, and construction is nearing completion. Phase 2 bicycle improvements are proposed for Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway (MLK), 2nd Avenue, High Street, 10th Street, Cherry Street, and others. The total project cost is \$480,000, which includes an estimated construction cost of \$400,000. \$320,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

B. City-wide Fixed-time Signal Upgrade Project – Phase 2: This project will upgrade approximately 25 existing "fixed-time" traffic signals by installing side-street vehicle and pedestrian detection. The locations will be along several of the city's arterial roadways, including the East 14th/East 15th one-way street corridor south of I-235, and the 19th Street /MLK one-way street corridor north of University Avenue. The project will improve air quality by enhancing traffic flow and reducing unnecessary stops and delays through these heavy traffic corridors. The total project cost is \$675,000, which includes an estimated construction cost of \$600,000. \$480,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

C. Northeast Des Moines Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Feasibility Study: This study would examine existing demographics, land use, and transportation connectivity in the northeast portion of the city to determine a continuous alternative mode connection between the existing Gay Lee Wilson recreational trail along Four Mile Creek and the downtown urban core. The feasibility of a combination of on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities including examining a rails-with-trails corridor along the existing Union Pacific Railroad will be assessed. This study will help to improve future air quality by studying the opportunities for connection to increase the use of alternative modes in northeast Des Moines to access places of employment, education, and commerce in the city including the downtown urban core. The total project cost is \$280,000, which includes an estimated study cost of \$250,000. \$200,000 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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