

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	November 4, 2013
	Agenda Item No.	28
	Roll Call No.	<u>13-1728</u>
	Communication No.	<u>13-540</u>
	Submitted by:	Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Receive and file the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greening America’s Capitals Report for the 6th Avenue corridor.

SYNOPSIS:

The Office of Sustainable Communities in the EPA Office of Policy selected the City of Des Moines to participate in their Greening America’s Capitals program. Through this initiative, the EPA provided a team of designers that visited Des Moines for three (3) days to work with the community to produce schematic designs and illustrations to catalyze or complement a larger planning process for the pilot neighborhood. The end result was a plan that focused on ways to improve the 6th Avenue corridor and make it a more sustainable place to live, work, and play.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

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 was 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. In 2012, the EPA selected Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Des Moines, Iowa; Frankfort, Kentucky; Helena, Montana; and Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in the program.

The City identified the 6th Avenue corridor between I-235 and Hickman Road to serve as the pilot area for this planning/technical assistance project. This effort complemented the streetscape and public art planning effort by developing green infrastructure concepts for 6th Avenue. The green infrastructure planning highlighted opportunities for permeable pavement and bio-retention to be incorporated into the streetscape design, as well as community engagement and educational opportunities. The final report is on file in the Engineering and Community Development Departments and will also be made available on the City’s website.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 25, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-993](#)

Action: [Letter](#) of Interest to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greening America's Capitals Program. ([Council Communication No. 12-348](#)). Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

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 first 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.