

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	May 18, 2015
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>15-790</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>15-263</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving and authorizing the application for a Department of Transportation (DOT), Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant for the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval and authorization to apply for DOT's National Infrastructure Investments under the Consolidated and further Continuing and Further Appropriations Act, 2015 for the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$35 million

Funding Source: Various Funding Sources, as follows:

- \$18.6 million – TIGER Discretionary Grant
- \$3.1 million – Federal STP funding allocated by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for Grand Avenue Bridge over Des Moines River and Locust Street Bridge over Des Moines River
- \$1.05 million – Private dollars pending
- \$500,000 – State Recreational Trails
- \$11.75 million – 2015-2016 CIP, as follows:
  - \$4.7 million – Page Bridges – 10, Grand Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
  - \$3.7 million – Page Bridges – 12, Locust Street Bridge over the Des Moines River
  - \$1.5 million – Page Bridges – 13, Scott Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
  - \$1.85 million – Page Parks – 80, Multi-use Trail Bridges

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 appropriated \$500 million to be awarded by the DOT for National Infrastructure Investments. Due to the similarity to previous appropriation for the TIGER Discretionary Grant, DOT is referring to these grants as "TIGER Discretionary Grants".

The funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region. The primary selection criteria are: state of good repair,

economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and safety. The secondary selection criteria include innovation and partnership. As with the previous TIGER Discretionary Grants, this is a highly competitive grant. This is the seventh round of TIGER Discretionary Grants. DOT anticipates receiving 1,000 applications for the \$500 million available. The previous six (6) rounds resulted in 6,100 applications and only 342 awards or less than 6%. The previous requests for funding totaled \$124 billion for the \$4.1 billion available. The City of Des Moines was awarded a TIGER Discretionary Grant in 2012 for construction of the Southeast Connector. The City applied three (3) times. The original grant request was for \$30 million for a fully built project, with an alternate request of \$15 million for the two-lane construction. The awarded grant amount was \$10 million.

Grants funded under the program must be greater than \$10 million (except in rural areas), but less than \$200 million. No more than 25% or \$125 million can be awarded to projects in a single state and at least \$100 million is to be used for projects in rural areas. The DOT must take measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities and the investment in a variety of transportation modes. TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used for up to 80% of the eligible costs of a project, but priority will be given to projects for which Federal funding is required to complete an overall financing package.

The timeframe for obligating funds is longer than previous rounds. Funding is available until 2017 and must be expended by 2022. This longer timeframe allows complex and multimodal projects that may require longer schedules to be submitted.

The Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection project includes:

- Grand Avenue over Des Moines River Bridge Replacement;
- Locust Street over Des Moines River Bridge Replacement;
- Court Avenue over Des Moines River Bridge Historic Rehabilitation;
- Principal Riverwalk Red Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Des Moines River Rehabilitation;
- Scott Avenue Bridge over Des Moines River Rehabilitation;
- SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Raccoon River Rehabilitation;
- Des Moines and Raccoon River Balustrade Rehabilitation; and
- S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Jackson Avenue) Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Raccoon River Rehabilitation.

Federal funding is being requested for each of the projects listed, except S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street and balustrade restoration.

The connectivity provided by the bridges – both roadway and trail, is important to the economic viability, quality of life, and development of the City. The Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection project satisfies many of the selection criteria identified in the grant, including: state of good repair, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and safety.

Approximately half of the private dollars shown as a funding source has been raised for the S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Jackson Avenue) Multi-Use Trail Bridge.

The estimated cost of the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection project is \$35 million. The TIGER Discretionary Grant application will request \$18.6 million for construction of the listed projects. An alternate request for less grant funds that would provide for construction of fewer project components will be included in the grant application. TIGER Discretionary Grant applications are due by June 5, 2015. An anticipated announcement date has not been provided.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: April 21, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0653](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the application for a Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER Discretionary Grant for the Downtown Transportation Restoration project. ([Council Communication No. 14-188](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 24, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0473](#)

Action: [Professional](#) Services Agreement with Stanley Consultants, Inc. for design services for The Principal Riverwalk Red Bridge over Des Moines River Rehabilitation, not to exceed \$252,000. ([Council Communication No. 14-131](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 24, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0472](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with Calhoun-Burns and Associates, Inc. for evaluation, design, and construction phase services for the Scott Avenue over Des Moines River Bridge Rehabilitation, not to exceed \$153,500. ([Council Communication No. 14-123](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 24, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0470](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with The Louis Berger Group, Inc. for the Downtown Transportation Restoration Section 106 Study, not to exceed \$57,000. ([Council Communication No. 14-124](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 24, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0263](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with CH2MHill, Inc. for environmental and grant work necessary for several downtown bridges known as the Downtown Transportation Restoration Project, not to exceed \$205,000. ([Council Communication No. 14-065](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 27, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0117](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with Shuck-Britson, Inc. for Design and Construction Phase Services for the Grand Avenue over Des Moines River Bridge Replacement, not to

exceed \$626,169. ([Council Communication No. 14-019](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 5-2.

Date: January 27, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0116](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with Shuck-Britson, Inc. for the Des Moines River Downtown Bridges Evaluation, not to exceed \$171,397. ([Council Communication No. 14-022](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 5-2.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

If selected, the City will be asked to enter into a grant agreement.

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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).