

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> July 27, 2015
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 61 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>15-1315</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>15-401</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Jonathan A. Gano, Public Works Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving a request to waive the full-funding condition on the prior approval of the commitment of \$100,000 for the procurement of a tree inventory.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the request to waive the fully-funded condition on the authorization to proceed with the tree inventory, essentially authorizing the conduct of a partial inventory with existing commitments, both public and private.

Private philanthropy was expected to fund 75% of the estimated cost of a complete tree inventory. That level of fundraising has not materialized despite months of development and grant applications to a variety of private foundations. The operational need for the tree inventory remains and the City would still benefit from a partial inventory.

The inventory is billed to Tree Des Moines on a per-tree basis, so a partial inventory has a built-in cost control mechanism. This approval would keep the limit of the City’s contribution at \$100,000 and permit the inventory to proceed on a more limited basis with the existing commitments of public and private funds. No additional funding is requested. The project would proceed with only the already-committed funds, public and private.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$100,000

Funding Source: 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Miscellaneous Improvements -5, City Tree Replacement Fund, MS007, G.O. Bonds

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The authorization to proceed with the tree inventory in 2014 was conditional upon the completion of adequate fundraising for the entire project. The estimated cost of the entire inventory for Des Moines is \$400,000. As a public-private partnership, the inventory effort relies heavily on donations to Tree Des Moines. Private fundraising by Tree Des Moines has reached almost \$100,000 and remains short of the \$300,000 to satisfy the 75% cost share. The City contribution of \$100,000 to the project was approved in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in 2014.

Rather than let the tree inventory, a very necessary urban forest management tool, languish for lack of total funding, this waiver approval would permit the partial completion of an inventory of the highest-risk locations with funding already committed. Public and private entities and citizens have pledged monies to support the inventory. Conducting a partial inventory now would honor that philanthropy and public support and permit an inventory to begin.

Further inventory efforts would be contingent upon either a future allocation of public funds or any subsequent private fundraising. A partial inventory may even help stimulate more private fundraising to further close the funding gap, as pledged funds would be put to immediate use.

#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: August 11, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1237](#)

Action: [Exception](#) to the procurement ordinance competitive bidding requirements for good cause, authorizing Tree Des Moines to issue a request for proposals for a tree inventory, management plan and management software and approving a commitment of \$100,000 for the procurement of such inventory. ([Council Communication No. 14-375](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: March 10, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0394](#)

Action: [On](#) recommended Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal 2014-2015 through 2019-2020. ([Council Communication No. 14-108](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt and refer to the City Manager to look for funding options for bridge repairs and bus rapid transit in Des Moines. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

#### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of award of contract for a tree management plan, software license, maintenance, software hosting, and training services, subject to conditions.

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