


| | |
|--|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p> | Date: April 11, 2016 |
| | Agenda Item No. 6 Roll Call No. <u>16-0542</u> Communication No. <u>16-199</u> Submitted by: Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the application for a Department of Transportation TIGER Discretionary Grant for the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines’ Community Connection Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to apply for Department of Transportation’s (DOT) National Infrastructure Investments under the FY2016 Appropriations Act for the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines’ Community Connection Project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$22 Million

Funding Source: Various Funding Sources as follows:

- \$8 million – TIGER Discretionary Grant
- \$2.5 million – Federal STP funding allocated by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for Locust Street Bridge over Des Moines River and Court Avenue Bridge over Des Moines River
- \$11.5 million – 2016 – 2017 CIP, as follows:
 - \$7.5 million – Page Bridges – 11, Locust Street Bridge over the Des Moines River
 - \$910,000 – Page Bridges – 12, Scott Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
 - \$2.9 million – Page Bridges – 5, Court Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River
 - \$190,000 – Page Parks – 8, Multi-use Trail Bridges

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The FY 2016 Appropriations Act, appropriated \$500 million to be awarded by the DOT for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program.

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 FY 2016 TIGER project will fund transformative projects including projects that promote Ladders of Opportunity. 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 eighth round of TIGER Discretionary Grants. DOT anticipates receiving 1,000 applications for the \$500 million available.

The previous seven (7) rounds resulted in more than 6,700 applications, and only 381 awards or less than 6%. The previous requests for funding totaled \$134 billion for the \$4.6 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 2-lane construction. The awarded grant amount was \$10 million. This is the third application for a downtown bridges project.

This round of TIGER Discretionary Grants reduces the minimum grant to \$5 million (except in rural areas), and maximum grant to \$100 million. No more than 20% or \$100 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 2019 and must be expended by 2024. 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:

- Locust Street over Des Moines River Bridge Replacement
- Court Avenue over Des Moines River Bridge Historic Rehabilitation
- Scott Avenue Bridge over Des Moines River Rehabilitation
- SW 1st Street Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Raccoon River Rehabilitation

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.

The estimated cost of the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection project is \$22 million. The TIGER Discretionary Grant application will request \$8 million for construction of listed projects. TIGER Discretionary Grant applications are due by April 29, 2016. An anticipated announcement date has not been provided.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 18, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-0790](#)

Action: [Approving](#) application for a Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER Discretionary Grant for the Bridges to Opportunity: Des Moines' Community Connection Project. ([Council Communication No. 15-263](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt; City Manager to report back in 60 days with recommendations on concerns raised regarding Bus Rapid Transit including long term funding and sustainability. Motion Carried 7-0.

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.