


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-023	Meeting:	January 13, 2020
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	20-0018
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Community Development Director and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the 6th Avenue Streetscape Phase 2: College Avenue to University Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of IDOT Agreement No. 20-TAP-122 between the City of Des Moines and the IDOT for the 6th Avenue Streetscape Phase 2: College Avenue to University Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$3,883,000

Funding Source: Various funding being:

- \$483,000 - Federal Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Project
- \$1,050,000 - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)
- \$350,000 - 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc. (anticipated)
- \$2,000,000 - 2019-20 CIP, Page Street Improvements-31, Sixth Avenue Streetscape, ST266, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Since 2008, The 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc., whose mission is to coordinate the commercial revitalization of 6th Avenue from I-235 north to the Des Moines River bridge, has been working with the City and other partners towards streetscape improvements along 6th Avenue, including new pedestrian safety features, aesthetic improvements, and sustainability concepts.
- A conceptual design study for the 6th Avenue Streetscape was completed by City staff and approved by the City Council on October 22, 2012, by Roll Call No. 12-1632.
- In 2013, the City applied for and was selected to participate in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 included a plan that focused on

ways to improve the 6th Avenue corridor and make it a more sustainable place to live, work, and play. The plan proposed green infrastructure elements along the 6th Avenue Corridor, including LED street light fixtures, rain gardens and/or biocells, street trees, and permeable pavers. This report was received and filed by the City Council on November 4, 2013, by Roll Call No. 13-1728.

- On April 7, 2014, by Roll Call No. 14-0525, the City hired a Consultant, Confluence, to blend the design concepts of the 6th Avenue Streetscape Conceptual Design and the U.S. EPA's "Greening 6th Avenue" final report and prepare a master layout plan, details, and cost estimates for the streetscape project along 6th Avenue from I-235 to the Des Moines River Bridge.
- The 6th Avenue Streetscape Project will improve a 1.2-mile long stretch through the historic River Bend and Cheatom Park neighborhoods from I-235 to Hickman Road. The Project includes streetscape enhancements, roadway reconfiguration from five (5) travel lanes to three (3) travel lanes, improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the corridor, street tree planting, and constructing green infrastructure components such as biocells and permeable pavers.
- The Project will be implemented in three (3) phases, starting from the north end of the corridor:
 - Phase 1: Hickman Road to College Avenue.
 - Phase 2: College Avenue to University Avenue.
 - Phase 3: University Avenue to I-235.
- Phase 1, Hickman Road to College Avenue, is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed in the late spring/early summer of 2020.
- On November 23, 2015, by Roll Call No. 15-1943, City Council authorized the submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) fund Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which included requesting \$300,000 in TAP funding for Phase 2 of the 6th Avenue Streetscape. \$300,000 in TAP funding was approved by the MPO for Phase 2 of the project.
- On November 20, 2017, by Roll Call No. 17-1934, City Council authorized the submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and TAP fund FY 2022 applications to the Des Moines Area MPO, which included requesting \$500,000 in TAP funding for Phase 2 of the 6th Avenue Streetscape. \$483,000 in TAP funding was approved by the MPO for Phase 2 of the project.
- As requested by the City, with the approval of the federal FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program in 2019, the MPO approved moving \$750,000 in STBG Set-Aside funding from the Ingersoll Avenue Streetscape – Phase 2 and Highland Park Streetscape to the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project Phase 2.

- On August 5, 2019, by Roll Call No. 19-1225, City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc. for the implementation of Phase 2 of the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project. The MOU establishes expectations for proceeding through the implementation steps to finalize and construct Phase 2 of the 6th Avenue Streetscape improvements. The 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc. has agreed to contribute \$350,000 in private funding to the construction of Phase 2.
- The estimated project cost for Phase 2 is \$3,883,000. The total federal funding approved for the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project Phase 2 is \$1,533,000.
- The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, approved in December 2015, eliminated the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and replaced it with a set-aside of STBG program funding for transportation alternatives.
- Federal regulations require the IDOT to administer federal funds. Iowa Code provide for recipients (in this case the City) and IDOT to enter into agreements with each other for the purpose of financing transportation improvement projects on streets and highways in Iowa with federal funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 20, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-1934](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) fund Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). ([Council Communication No. 17-801](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Anticipated actions include ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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