


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-551	Meeting:	December 21, 2020
	Agenda Item:	7	Roll Call:	20-2083
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 applications to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

SYNOPSIS:

The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG funds for FY 2025. City staff recommend that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below.

STBG Funds:

1. Southeast Connector
2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade
4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation – Beaver Avenue to 37th Street

The MPO is in the process of updating the scoring criteria for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as STBG Set-Aside Program. Once the scoring criteria update is complete for this funding program, the MPO anticipates beginning the solicitation for project applications for the TAP in early 2021. Once the solicitation begins and the new scoring criteria is made available, City staff will then bring a recommendation to Council for TAP Program funding applications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2020-21/2024-25 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

Funding Source: STBG Funds:

1. Southeast Connector – SE 30th Street to US 65 Beltway

STBG Funds Previously Received	\$ 7,600,000 (FY23 \$3M + FY24 \$4.6M)
STBG Funds Requested	\$ 4,400,000
BUILD Grant Funds Future Request	\$21,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 8,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost (2-Lane)	\$41,000,000

2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River

STBG Funds Previously Received	\$1,000,000 (FY24)
STBG Funds Requested	\$1,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$1,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$3,000,000

3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade

STBG Funds Previously Received	\$1,500,000 (FY22, FY23, FY24 - \$500,000 each year)
STBG Funds Requested	\$1,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per year
Total Project Cost	\$12,500,000

4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation — Beaver Avenue to 37th Street

STBG Funds Requested	\$ 500,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 700,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,200,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The MPO will award STBG Program funds to various transportation projects throughout the region.
- The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG for FY 2025. The STBG applications must be submitted to the MPO by January 15, 2021. Each year, approximately \$13 million is available in STBG funding for the Greater Des Moines region. This City's proposed request totals \$6.9 million.
- The MPO is proposing to update the scoring criteria for the TAP, also known as STBG Set-Aside Program. The MPO anticipates beginning the solicitation for project applications for the TAP in early 2021. Once the solicitation begins and the new scoring criteria is available, City staff will bring a recommendation to Council for TAP Program funding applications. Each year, approximately \$1.2 million is available in TAP funding for the Greater Des Moines region.
- The MPO is considering five (5) major categories of STBG projects:
 - Roadway Projects
 - Bridge Repair/Replacement
 - Major Reconstruction/Replacement
 - System Optimization
 - Transit

STBG Project Applications

Staff has reviewed several potential STBG projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for FY 2025 STBG funding:

1. Southeast Connector – SE 30th Street to US 65 Beltway (Roadway Project)

This project consists of construction of the Southeast Connector on a new alignment from SE 30th Street to the US 65 Beltway, connecting at the existing interchange with Vandalia Road. The project will include property acquisition and grading for the full 4-lane divided roadway but only for the construction of a 2-lane facility initially, consistent with the current roadway cross-section between SE 15th and SE 30th Streets.

Previously awarded STP funds in the amount of \$7,932,000 (FY 2017-2020) were transferred to construction of the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Project. The City of Pleasant Hill will also be included on this application since a portion of the facility will be within its city limits. The estimated project cost is \$41,000,000. The City received \$3,000,000 of FY 2023 STBG funds and \$4,600,000 in FY 2024 STBG funds. The City plans to request \$4,400,000 of FY 2025 funds. If successful, this request for \$4,400,000 of STBG funds in FY 2025 would complete the STBG requests for the Southeast Connector and would allow the project to compete for federal discretionary funding, such as Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), formerly known as TIGER grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Final design is underway for the last section of the Southeast Connector between SE 30th Street and US 65. Property acquisition is also beginning. Funding for the design, right-of-way and the local funding match are currently included in the CIP with G.O. bonds. Pending allocation of STBG funds, an application for a BUILD grant could be submitted in 2021. This would allow construction to begin in 2023.

The development of a 2021 BUILD grant application is currently underway.

2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River (Bridge Repair/Replacement)

This project provides the rehabilitation and strengthening of the existing bridge. During the 2017 biennial inspections, the bridge was downgraded to be classified as structurally deficient, primarily to continued concrete deterioration. Additionally, newer rating analysis indicates possible rating capacity issues in the north and south end spans. The rating capacity will be further analyzed and additional feasibility level analysis will be done concurrently evaluating strengthening and rehabilitation options. Due to the age of the bridge (1936) and major traffic network changes over the last decade, high level traffic analysis will be done to further understand the function of this route on the transportation network. The estimated cost of this rehabilitation project is \$3,000,000. The City received \$1,000,000 in in FY 2024 STBG funds for this project. The City plans to request \$1,000,000 of FY 2025 funds.

3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade (System Optimization)

This project consists of updating the City's traffic signal controllers, central management software, transportation communication system, and video observation camera system. The estimated project cost is \$12.5 million. The City plans to request \$1,000,000 in FY 2025 funds

for Upgrade Phase #6. Previously, STP funds in the amount of \$500,000 (FY 2022), \$500,000 (FY 2023), and \$500,000 (FY 2024) were awarded.

4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation – Beaver Avenue to 37th Street
(Major Reconstruction/Replacement)

This project consists of pavement repair and resurfacing on Hickman Road from Beaver Avenue to 37th Street. The estimated project cost is \$1,200,000. The City plans to request \$500,000 of FY 2025 funds.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 18, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1803](#)

Action: [Approving](#) submittal of a Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as Surface Transportation Grant Set-Aside Program, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 applications to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). ([Council Communication No. 19-493](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Authorizing submittal of federal TAP, also known as STBG Set-Aside Program, FY 2025 applications to the Des Moines MPO.

Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

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