


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-294	Meeting:	June 28, 2021
	Agenda Item:	6	Roll Call:	21-0949
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the application for a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant for the Southeast Connector Project between SE 30th Street and U.S. 65.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to apply for a DOT RAISE Grant as provided by the National Infrastructure Investments in the Consolidated Appropriations Act FY2021 for the Southeast Connector (SE 30th Street – U.S. 65) Project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$60 million

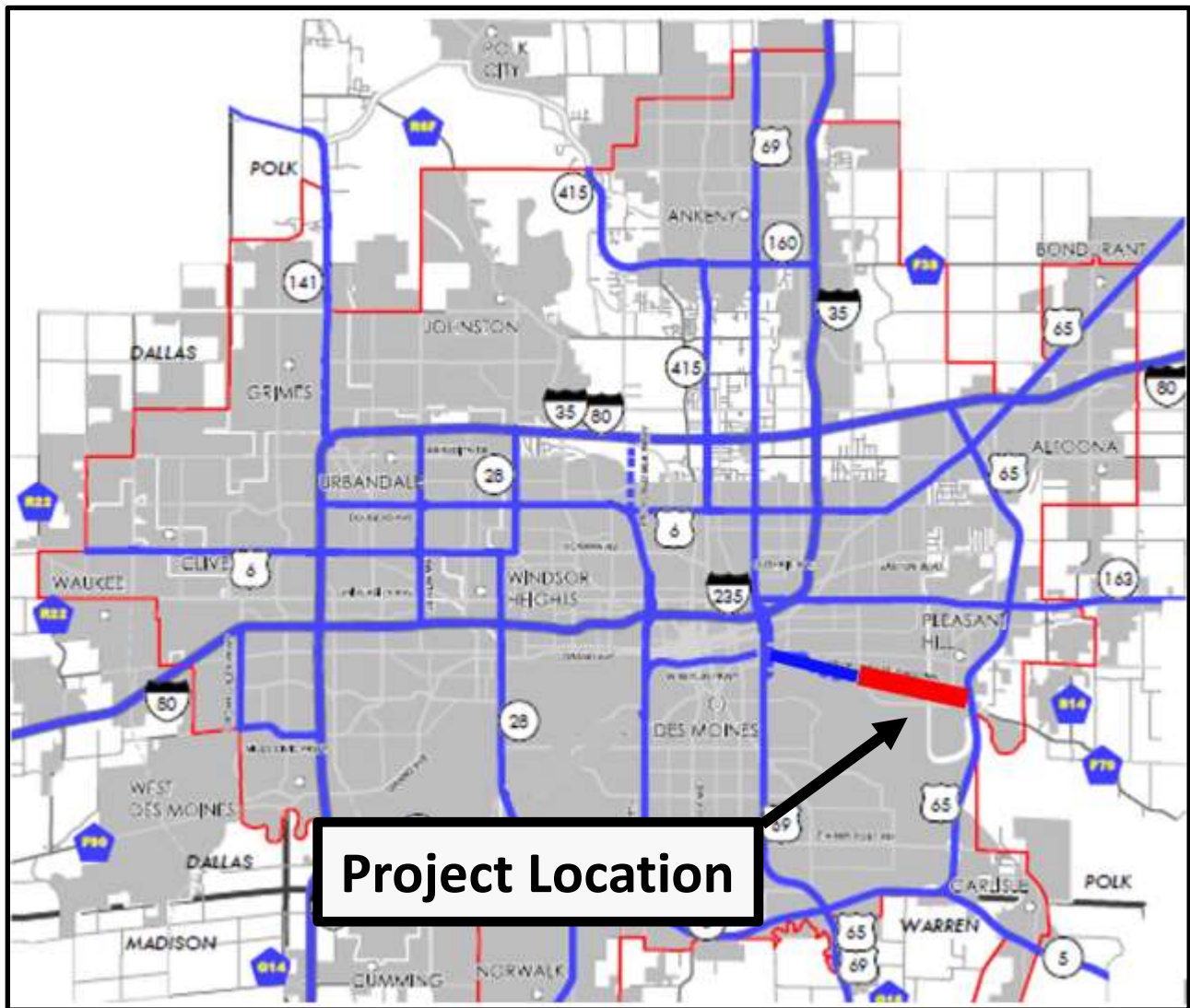
Funding Source: Various funding Sources, as follows:

- \$23,000,000 - RAISE Grant
- \$11,284,000 - Federal STBG funding allocated by the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization
- \$25,716,000 – 2021/2022 CIP, Page 113, Southeast Connector – SE 30th St to US 65, ST256, GO Bonds and Proceeds from Federal Title 23 Excess Land Sales

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, appropriated \$1 billion to be awarded by the DOT for the RAISE Grants.
- \$500 million is to be awarded for urban projects and \$500 million is to be awarded to rural projects across the United States. The Southeast Connector Project is considered an urban project since the Des Moines urbanized area has a population greater than 200,000.
- The funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. The primary selection criteria are safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and state of good repair. The secondary selection criteria are partnership and innovation.

- The RAISE Grant highlights priorities to invest in national infrastructure projects that result in good paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology and explicitly address climate change and racial equity.
- As with prior discretionary grant programs, the RAISE Grant program is highly competitive. Grants funded under the program for urban projects will range from \$5 million to \$25 million.
- The Southeast Connector project satisfies many of the selection criteria identified in the grant and aligns well with the Administrations priorities on several points. When completed, this segment of the Southeast Connector will make the final connection to U.S. 65 Highway that will result in a transformative roadway corridor from downtown Des Moines through the southeast quadrant of the City and eastern Polk County, opening up several opportunities for future economic development and greatly enhance the ability to transport goods, and provide more direct and safer connections to other major transportation corridors such as Interstates 35 and 80, Highway 5 in addition to U.S. Highway 65. Additionally, it is anticipated the completion of this project will divert traffic from University Avenue, Scott Avenue and Vandalia Road.
- As part of the project, a 12-foot-wide shared-use path will be constructed that will fill in a critical gap that is present within the Central Iowa Trail System by connecting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Trail with the Gay Lea Wilson Trail in eastern Polk County.
- City staff has been working jointly with the City of Pleasant Hill and a consultant to prepare the RAISE application. The application must be submitted by July 12, 2021.
- The City of Pleasant Hill has just completed the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road intersection project, which is a part of the overall Southeast Connector Project. The City of Des Moines previously transferred \$7.9 million of federal funds to Pleasant Hill to assist in the completion of this project.
- The estimated total project cost for the Southeast Connector (SE 30th – U.S. 65) is \$60 million, with \$44 million being for construction and the remaining for design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocations and construction administration and inspection. The RAISE Grant application will request \$23 million for construction of the project which includes paving for two (2) lanes of roadway, an 1,800-foot long bridge, shared-use path, relocation and improvement of 4,000 feet of the levee system, storm water enhancements, as well as the grading for future expansion of the roadway to four (4) lanes.
- Award announcements are to be made by November 22, 2021. All awarded funds are to be obligated by June 30, 2024 and expended no later than September 30, 2029. RAISE grants may be used for up to 80% of eligible project costs but priority will be given to projects in which federal funding is required to complete an overall financing package.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 22, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1728](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. for additional professional services for the final design of the Southeast Connector – SE 30th Street to U.S. 65 for an additional not-to-exceed amount of \$992,000. ([Council Communication 18-528](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

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

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