


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>21-511</b>	Meeting:	<b>December 6, 2021</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>8</b>	Roll Call:	<b>21-1792</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer and Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside Program, Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

## SYNOPSIS:

The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG and TAP funds for FY 2026. City staff recommends that the City submit applications for the following projects:

### STBG Funds:

1. Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road
2. University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River Rehabilitation
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade (Maintain/Optimization)
4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation - Beaver Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Street

### TAP Funds:

1. Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2021-22/2025-26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

### Funding Source:

#### STBG Funds:

1. Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road

FY 2026 STBG Funds Request	\$ 4,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 6,000,000
<i>(2021-2022 CIP, Page 140, Douglas Avenue Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road, ST289)</i>	
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$10,000,000

2. University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River Rehabilitation	
FY 2026 STBG Funds Request	\$ 2,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 1,000,000
<i>(Future CIP Project Budget Request)</i>	
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 3,000,000
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade (Maintain/Optimization)	
STBG Funds Previously Received	\$ 2,000,000
FY 2022 \$500,000 STBG for Phase 2	
FY 2023 \$500,000 STBG for Phase 3	
FY 2024 \$500,000 STBG for Phase 4	
FY 2025 \$500,000 STBG for Phase 5	
FY 2026 STBG Funds Request for Phase 6	\$ 1,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per year
<i>(2021-2022 CIP, Page 164, Traffic System Operation Improvements, TR097)</i>	
Total Project Cost	\$12,500,000
4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation - Beaver Avenue to 30 <sup>th</sup> Street	
FY 2026 STBG Funds Request	\$ 1,000,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 1,500,000
<i>(Future CIP Project Budget Request)</i>	
Total Project Cost	\$ 2,500,000

## TAP Funds:

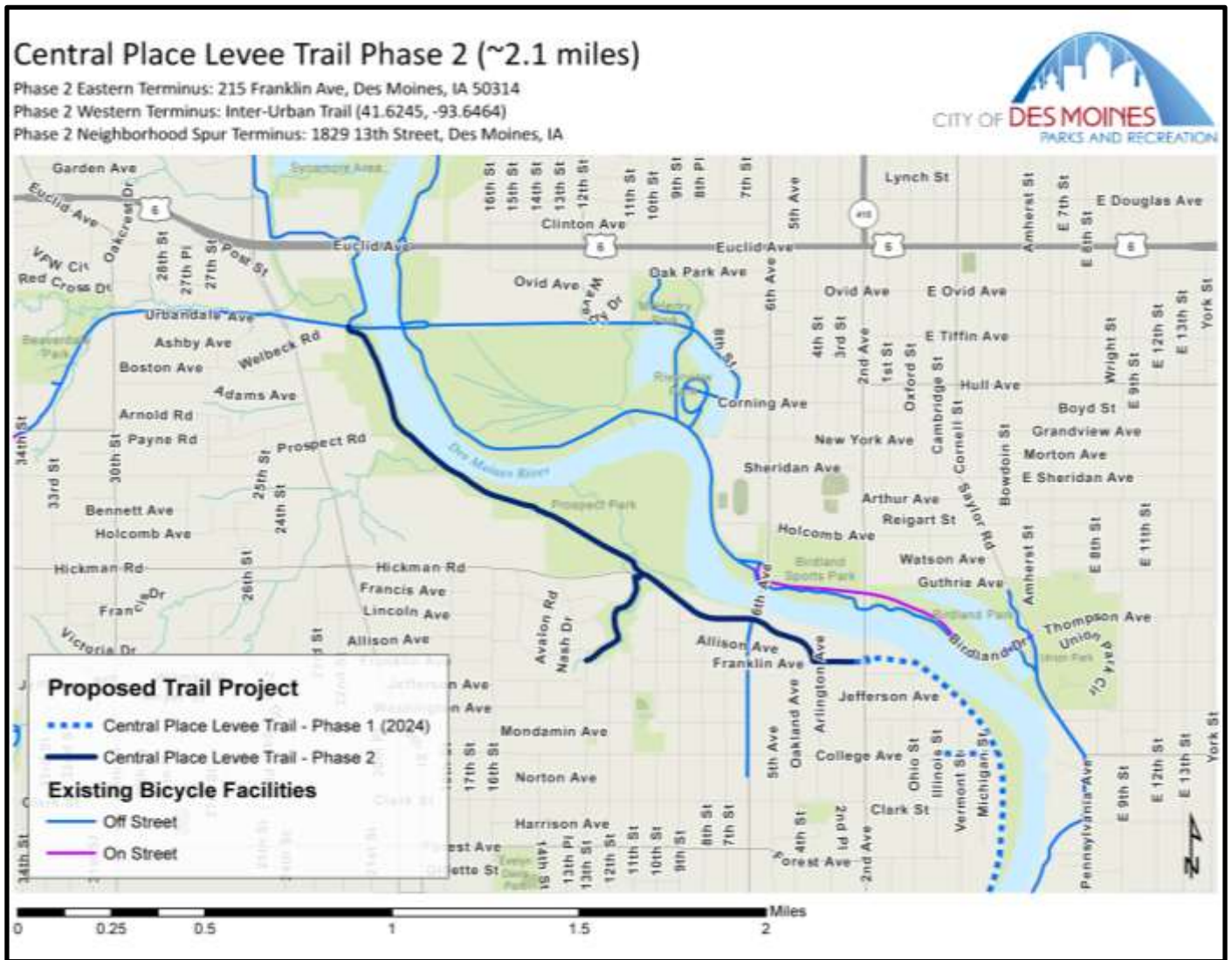
1. Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2	
TAP Funds Previously Received	\$ 300,000 <i>(FY 2025)</i>
FY 2026 TAP Funds Request	\$ 500,000
Anticipated 2023 IDNR Resource Enhancement and Protection	\$ 300,000
Anticipated FY 2024 Federal Recreational Trail Program Funds	\$ 200,000
Anticipated FY 2025 State Recreational Trail Program Funds	\$ 370,000
Anticipated City Funds	\$ 830,000
<i>(2021-2022 CIP, Page 85, Central Place Levee Trail, PK193)</i>	
Total Project Cost	\$ 2,500,000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The MPO will award STBG Program and TAP funds to transportation projects throughout the region.
- The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for TAP for FY 2026. The TAP applications must be submitted to the MPO by January 7, 2022. Each year, approximately \$1.2 million is available in TAP funding for the Greater Des Moines region.
- The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG for FY 2026. The STBG applications must be submitted to the MPO by January 7, 2022. Each year, approximately \$13 million is available in STBG funding for the Greater Des Moines region.

- The MPO is considering five (5) major categories of STBG projects:
  - Roadway Projects/System Capacity
  - Bridge
  - Major Reconstruction/Replacement
  - System Optimization
  - Transit
- STBG Project Applications - Staff reviewed several potential STBG projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for FY 2026 STBG funding:
  1. Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road (Roadway Project)
    - The Douglas Avenue Coalition completed a corridor plan in February 2020. The goal of the corridor plan was to create a vision for the Douglas Avenue corridor from Merle Hay Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. The corridor plan proposes Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road be converted to a 3-lane cross-section with the goals of improving vehicle and pedestrian safety by calming traffic and generating additional economic development along the corridor.
    - On April 20, 2020, by Roll Call Number 20-0610, City Council directed staff to submit a proposal to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) Lane Reduction Pilot Project, converting Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road from a 4-lane cross section to a 3-lane cross section. The proposal includes Pilot Project Evaluation Criteria to determine if the Pilot Project is successful (and permanent improvements should be considered) or not (and Douglas Avenue should be restored to its original 4-lane cross section).
    - On February 8, 2021, by Roll Call Number 21-0175, City Council approved IDOT Agreement No. 2021-6-069 for Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) from Merle Hay Road to the Des Moines River.
    - In 2021, in accordance with the IDOT Agreement and at the request of the City, IDOT constructed the Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) Lane Reduction Pilot Project, converting Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road from a 4-lane cross section to a 3-lane cross section.
    - In 2022 and 2023 the Pilot Project will be evaluated, comparing “after Pilot Project” traffic data with “before Pilot Project” traffic data.
    - Should the Pilot Project Evaluation Criteria be considered effective as defined in the proposal, the City will begin design of permanent improvements for the corridor. The design of the permanent improvements would be submitted to the IDOT for review and approval prior to anticipated construction in 2026.
    - Permanent improvements could include removal and replacement of curbs to provide a 3-lane section, new sidewalks, and intersection improvements and could cost an estimated \$10,000,000 to improve approximately two (2) miles of the Douglas Avenue Corridor between Merle Hay Road and Lower Beaver Road.

- City staff recommend applying for \$4,000,000 FY 2026 STBG funds for the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road.
- 2. University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River Rehabilitation (Bridge Repair/Replacement)
  - This project provides the rehabilitation of the existing University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River. The estimated cost of the rehabilitation project is \$3,000,000. The City plans to request \$2,000,000 of FY 2026 STBG 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 total estimated project cost is \$12.5 million. The City plans to request \$1,000,000 in FY 2026 funds for Upgrade Phase #6. Previously, STP funds in the amounts of \$500,000 (FY 2022 – Phase 2), \$500,000 (FY 2023 – Phase 3), \$500,000 (FY 2024 – Phase 4), and \$500,000 (FY 2025 – Phase 5) were awarded.
- 4. Hickman Road Rehabilitation - Beaver Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Street (Major Reconstruction/Replacement)
  - This project consists of pavement repair and resurfacing of Hickman Road from Beaver Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Street. The estimated project cost is \$2,500,000. The City plans to request \$1,000,000 of FY 2026 STBG funds.
- TAP Project Applications - Staff reviewed several potential TAP projects and recommends the following project be submitted for FY 2026 TAP funding:
  1. Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2
    - Informed by LiveDSM, the Parks and Recreation Department's comprehensive plan, and the Future Core Bike Network from MoveDSM, the City of Des Moines' Transportation Master Plan, the Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2 is an equity-focused project that will serve an area of the City experiencing among the highest degrees of disadvantage across the City per the MPO's 2020 Environmental Justice Area mapping and analysis.
    - The Central Place Levee Trail Phase 2 project includes constructing approximately 2.1-miles of new multi-use trail section along the west bank of the Des Moines River and City right-of-way between the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Franklin Avenue and the intersection of the Inter-Urban and Trestle to Trestle multi-use trails. The new trail spine will be a 10-foot-wide asphalt or concrete section, approximately 1.8-miles in length. An approximate 0.3-miles long neighborhood service trail spur will be an 8-foot-wide asphalt or concrete section. The project is estimated to cost \$2,500,000. The City plans to request \$500,000 in FY 2026 TAP funds.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 8, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0204](#)

Action: [Submittal](#) of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)/Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) set-aside program fiscal year (FY) 2025 application to Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Central Place Levee Trail, Phase 2. ([Council Communication No. 21-050](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).