


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: <b>24-484</b>	Meeting: <b>December 9, 2024</b>
	Agenda Item: <b>6</b>	Roll Call: <b>24-1619</b>
	Submitted by: <b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>	

## AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2029 applications to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

## SYNOPSIS:

The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG and STBG Set-aside for Federal FY 2029. City staff recommend submitting applications for the following projects:

### STBG Funds:

1. 6th Avenue Improvements – Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue
2. SW 9th Street Bridge over the Raccoon River Rehabilitation
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2024-2025/2026-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

### Funding Source:

#### STBG Funds:

1. 6th Avenue Improvements – Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue

FY 2029 STBG Funds Request \$ 3,000,000

FY 2028 STBG Set Aside Funds Received \$ 452,000

Anticipated City Funds \$ 950,000

*(2024-2025 CIP, Page 133, 6th Ave. Lane Reconfiguration – Hickman to Euclid, ST301)*

Total Project Cost \$ 4,402,000

2. SW 9th Street Bridge over the Raccoon River Rehabilitation

FY 2029 STBG Funds Request \$ 4,000,000

Anticipated City Funds \$ 4,000,000

*(2025-2026 CIP, Page 23, SW 9th Street Bridge over Raccoon River, BR065)*

Total Estimated Construction Cost \$ 8,000,000

\*Note: Full scope may require additional costs and an additional funding request.

3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade

FY 2029 STBG Funds Request for Phase 9 \$ 1,500,000

STBG Funds Previously Received \$ 5,500,000

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 \$1,500,000 STBG for Phase 6

FY 2027 \$1,000,000 STBG for Phase 7

FY 2028 \$1,000,000 STBG for Phase 8

Anticipated City Funds \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000/year

*(2024-2025 CIP, Page 163, Traffic System Operation Improvements, TR097)*

Total Estimated Construction Cost \$ 12,500,000

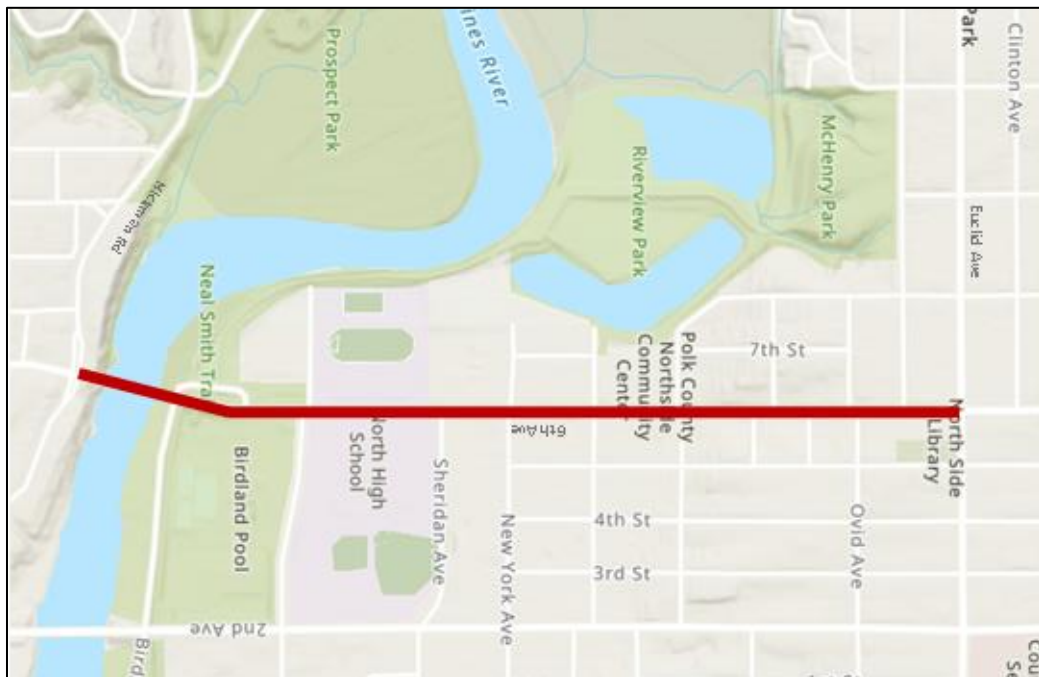
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The MPO will award STBG and STBG Set-aside Program funds to transportation projects throughout the region. The STBG Set-aside Program is formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
- The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for STBG and STBG Set-aside for Federal FY 2029. The STBG and STBG Set-aside applications must be submitted to the MPO by January 10, 2025. Each year, approximately \$13 million is available in STBG funding and approximately \$1.2 million is available in STBG Set-aside funding for the Greater Des Moines region.
- The MPO is considering five (5) major categories of STBG projects:
  - Roadway Projects/System Capacity
  - Major Reconstruction/Replacement
  - System Optimization
  - Bridge Program
  - Transit

- STBG Project Applications - Staff reviewed potential STBG eligible projects and recommends submitting applications for the following projects for FY 2029 funding:

1. 6th Avenue Improvements – Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue

- In 2023, a traffic study was completed for the 6th Avenue corridor from Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue. Over the past several years, the City has invested in an extensive streetscape project on 6th Avenue from Hickman Road to the south. A component of the 6th Avenue Streetscape included an eight (8)-foot-wide side-path on the west side of the street. North of Hickman Road, 6th Avenue is currently a five (5)-lane street with narrow sidewalks. The purpose of the study was to determine the feasibility of a “road diet” to reduce the street cross-section to three (3) lanes of traffic and to develop a concept plan that includes a new bicycle facility.
- The study recommended improvements include converting 6th Avenue to a three (3)-lane roadway with a two (2)-way cycle track on the west side from Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue. Pedestrian crossings would be provided at Corning Avenue and near Ovid Avenue with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB). The project will also include street resurfacing, consolidation of several redundant driveways to reduce conflict point, moving the existing curbs between Corning Avenue and Euclid Avenue to create a wider parkway between the street and sidewalk.
- The existing barrier rail on the west side of the 6th Avenue bridge over the Des Moines River will be removed and rebuilt to accommodate the proposed lane reduction and bicycle facility.
- The total estimated construction cost for this project is \$4,402,000. City staff recommend applying for \$3,000,000 in FY 2029 STBG funding to construct the recommended improvements.



## 2. SW 9th Street Bridge over the Raccoon River Rehabilitation

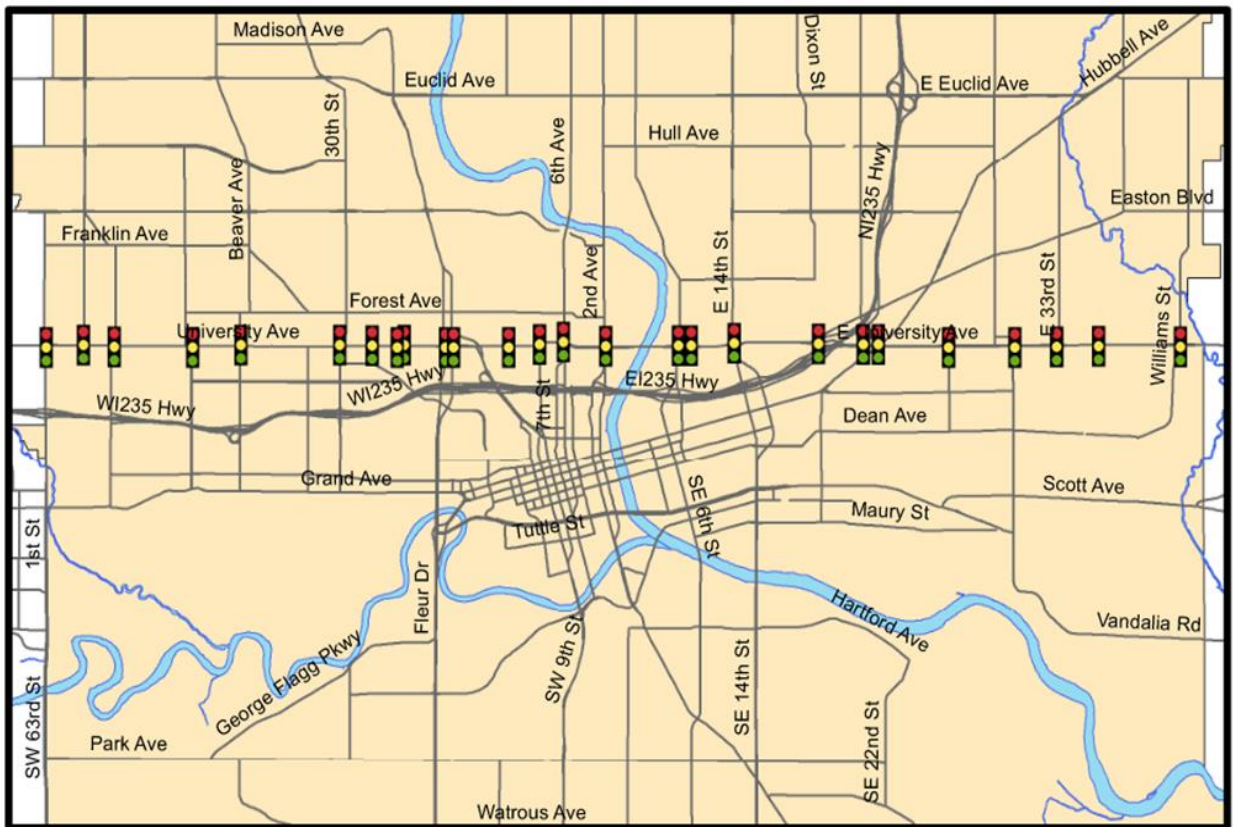
- The SW 9th Street bridge is one (1) of only three (3) bridges crossing the Raccoon River connecting the south side of Des Moines to the downtown area.
- The condition of the bridge continues to exhibit signs of continued distress and deterioration as identified in the biennial bridge inspection.
- Rehabilitation would include repairs to the bridge deck, sidewalks, pier caps and columns, concrete beam and diaphragms as well as placement of a new deck overlay.
- The sidewalk along the west side of the bridge ends mid-bridge and utilizes a staircase, which is not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The rehabilitation of the bridge structure would evaluate options to bring the sidewalk into compliance.
- Currently bridge rehabilitations citywide are funded with \$2 million in Gaming monies. This amount is insufficient to fund the rehabilitation of the bridge.
- The cost estimate to rehabilitate the SW 9th Street Bridge over Raccoon River and make geometric changes to the bridge is \$8,000,000. City staff recommend applying \$4,000,000 in FY 2029 STBG funds to rehabilitate the bridge.



## 3. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Upgrade

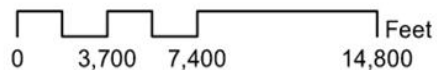
- The City of Des Moines ITS Master Plan Report was completed and adopted by the City Council on November 19, 2018, by Roll Call No. 18-1895. The Report outlines a phased plan to upgrade of the City's ITS systems (traffic signals, communication network, video camera observation system, central management software, etc.), which will enable the City to actively manage traffic during peak travel times, special events, construction detours, and emergency situations. This capability will provide safer and more efficient travel for people throughout the region as they travel to, from, or within Des Moines.

- The implementation plan has been divided into smaller phases based on funding; the construction cost for each phase is planned for approximately \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000.
- Phase 9 of the plan includes a project to update the City’s traffic signal detection system to implement adaptive traffic signal control on the University Avenue/E University Avenue corridor from 63rd Street to Williams Street. Traffic observation cameras, pedestrian traffic signal heads and pushbuttons, and ADA sidewalk ramp construction are included as part of this project.
- The total estimated cost from 2018 to implement the ITS Master Plan is \$12.5 million. The City plans to request \$1,500,000 in FY 2029 funds for Phase 9. 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), \$500,000 (FY 2025 – Phase 5), \$1,500,000 (FY 2026 – Phase 6), \$1,000,000 (FY 2027 – Phase 7), and \$1,000,000 (FY 2028 – Phase 8) were awarded. Phases 1 and 2 construction is complete as of 2023. Phases 3 and 4 construction is nearing completion and should be complete in spring 2025. Phase 5 construction will begin in spring 2025 and be completed in spring 2026. Phases 6 through 9 will continue, annually, in the following years.



**Legend**

 ATSC Intersections



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: December 18, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1738](#)

Action: [Approving](#) submittal of Federal STBG Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-aside Program FY 2028 applications to the Des Moines MPO. ([Council Communication No. 23-564](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

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