


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: 24-514	Meeting: December 23, 2024
	Agenda Item: 9	Roll Call: [_____]
	Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer	

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Set-Aside 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 applying for FY 2029 STBG Set-aside Program funding for the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$3,500,000 Preliminary (Budgetary) Total Estimated Construction Cost

Funding Source:

- \$700,000 FY 2029 STBG Set-aside Program (Request) **
- \$100,000 FY 2018 STBG Set-aside Program (Awarded)
- \$2,700,000 Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) Park Foundation
- DMWW Park Foundation will also fund design and construction administration costs.

**Depending on the amount of funding awarded and as cost estimates for the bridge are more refined, an additional STBG Set-aside Program funding request may be necessary (possibly FY 2030 funding).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines multi-use trail counters logged an estimated 3.2 million trail uses in 2023 across the City's trail system. It is anticipated that this number will increase year-by-year as the system continues to grow. The City of Des Moines has more than 76 miles of paved trail and that number is expanding.
- The Bill Riley Trail is one of the most popular and vital east-west trail segments in the Iowa Trail Network, with more than 250,000 uses per year.

- The 1.7-mile portion of the Bill Riley Trail between Ashworth Park and Water Works Park is one of the oldest trails in Des Moines, paved in 1973, thanks to fundraising efforts led by Bill Riley, Park Board member, local radio and television personality, longtime civic leader and businessman.
- The Bill Riley Trail was extended from Water Works Park to the southwest corner of Gray's Lake Park in 2009, making the total length of the Bill Riley Trail approximately 3.5 miles.
- The Bill Riley Trail includes a steel pony truss bridge with wood plank decking crossing the Raccoon River.





Above Photo: Side View Looking West at Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River



Above Photo: Trail View Looking North at Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River

- Based on recent Bridge Inspection Reports, this Bill Riley Trail Bridge needs replacement. The new replacement bridge would likely be constructed upstream of the existing bridge to allow the Bill Riley Trail to remain open during construction of the new bridge.
- On December 20, 2021, by Roll Call No. 21-1938, City Council directed the City Manager to negotiate an amendment of the 28E Agreement between the City of Des Moines, the Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines, and the DMWW Park Foundation, that included the following:
 - State the City Council expectation that the Foundation and DMWW will initiate fundraising for replacement of the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River to satisfy the obligations as outlined and agreed to in the separate 28E Agreement between the City and DMWW approved by City Council on December 19, 2016, by Roll Call No. 16-2191, regarding City trails within DMWW Park.
- Per the City's agreement with Water Works for the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River, the City is responsible for applying for grants to help fund repair or replacement of the bridge and Water Works shall provide matching funds for construction of the Bill Riley Trail Bridge Replacement over the Raccoon River. Water Works shall also fund design and construction administration costs for the Bill Riley Trail Bridge Replacement project.
- On November 18, 2013, by Roll Call No. 13-1776, City Council authorized submittal of Surface Transportation Program (now known as STBG Program) and Transportation Alternatives Program (now known as STBG Set-aside Program) Fund FY 2018 Applications to the MPO, which included applying for FY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds for the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River. \$100,000 in TAP (now STBG Set-aside) Funds have been awarded to the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River project.
- 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.
- On December 9, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-1619, City Council authorized submittal of Federal STGB Program FY 2029 applications to the MPO for the following projects:
 - 6th Avenue Improvements – Hickman Road to Euclid Avenue (\$3,000,000 FY 2029 STBG Request)
 - SW 9th Street Bridge over the Raccoon River Rehabilitation (\$4,000,000 FY 2029 STBG Request)
 - Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade (\$1,500,000 FY 2029 STBG Request)

- City staff met with DMWW staff on December 6, 2024, and agreed to recommend to City Council applying for \$700,000 in FY 2029 STBG Set-aside funding for the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River project.
- Pending receipt of funding, construction of the Bill Riley Trail Bridge over the Raccoon River project is anticipated to start in 2030.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 9, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1619](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) submittal of Federal STGB Program FY 2029 applications to the Des Moines Area MPO. ([Council Communication No. 24-484](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: November 18, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1776](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) submittal of STP and TAP Fund FY 2018 Applications to the Des Moines Area MPO. ([Council Communication No. 13-554](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 6-0.

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

- Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- Approval of Professional Services Agreement(s) with design consultants, funded by DMWW Foundation, with City leading design of bridge replacement project.
- Depending on the amount of funding awarded and as cost estimates for the bridge are more refined, an additional STBG Set-aside Program funding request may be necessary (possibly FY 2030 funding).

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