



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: October 23, 2012
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Budget Committee

Subject: Hennepin County Bike Walk Grant Solicitation

Recommendation: Authorize Public Works to submit grant applications to Hennepin County for four bicycle and four pedestrian projects

Prepared by: Shaun Murphy, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, 333-2450

Approved by:

Steven Kotke, P.E., City Engineer - Director of Public Works

Presenter: Shaun Murphy, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. ___ Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain): *A future Capital appropriation will be needed for the City's match but this amount is dependent on which projects the County selects.*

Community Impact

City Goals: Satisfies multi-modal transportation goals

Background/Supporting Information

On October 1, 2012, Hennepin County released a solicitation for grant applications for their Pedestrian and Bicycle Capital Improvement Program. There are three funding categories within the program, each having parameters:

| | Total Funds Available | Funds Available per Project | % County Funding Participation | Location Requirements |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pedestrian Projects | \$300,000 | \$50,000 | 25% | County Streets Only |
| Bikeway Gap Projects | \$250,000 | \$100,000 | 50% | County or City Streets |
| New Bikeway Projects | \$250,000 | \$100,000 | 50% | County or City Streets |

Applications are due on November 1, 2012 and funding decisions will be announced by the end of the year. Projects are required to be complete within three years of the date of the funding award. The solicitations indicate that operations and maintenance of these funded projects will be the responsibility of the City. Public Works will examine this aspect further as it relates to existing operations and maintenance practices and agreements with Hennepin County.

In addition to a cost estimate and schedule, applications require an assessment of:

- Safety benefits (high priority)
- Project readiness (high priority)
- Cost effectiveness (high priority)
- Trip generators (high priority)
- Overcoming of physical barriers (medium priority)
- Community support (also considered)

Based upon these criteria and their relative weight, staff has created an evaluation matrix for each solicitation category. Additionally, Public Works has considered geographic equity in its ranking.

Pedestrian Projects

Eligible pedestrian projects include new or improved sidewalks and street crossing improvements. In order to create a list of potential projects, staff used the Minneapolis Pedestrian Master Plan. Maps of the city's sidewalk network gaps and pedestrian-auto crashes were referenced. Out of this research a list of seven projects was created, with a focus on pedestrian safety. See Attachment A for this list. The four highest ranked pedestrian projects on County streets were identified for Lake Street, Franklin Avenue, Penn Avenue North and West Broadway Avenue.

Pedestrian projects are likely to include some combination of features, including but not limited to pedestrian safety islands, ADA compliant ramps, permanent or semi-permanent curb extensions, durable crosswalk markings, countdown timers, or signs.

On Thursday, October 18th, the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) met and commented on the list of projects in Attachment A. The PAC passed a motion supporting the current Public Works recommendation.

Bicycle Projects

Based on the bikeway information provided by Hennepin County, Public Works identified projects from the County's Bicycle Gap Study Map, while new bikeways came from the County's Bicycle Plan Map. See Attachments B and C for these lists. The two highest ranked bikeway gap projects were Lyndale Avenue North and 6th Avenue SE/5th Avenue SE corridors. The two highest ranked new bikeway system projects were 36th Street West and Broadway Street NE.

Bikeway projects are likely to include some combination of features, including but not limited to striped on-street bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and bike boulevard traffic calming improvements.

On Tuesday, October 16th, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) met and commented on the list of projects in Attachments B and C. The BAC passed a motion supporting the current Public Works recommendation.

Public Works Recommendation

While ranked internally, Public Works has purposely not prioritized the projects to allow for flexibility on selection. Public Works anticipates that not all 4 pedestrian or all 4 bicycle projects will be selected and thus further discussions will be needed with Hennepin County.

Public Works seeks authorization to apply for funding for these 8 projects and work with Hennepin County as needed on the selected projects and the related parameters. If projects are selected, Public Works will return to the City Council to make recommendations about city matching funds and the operations/maintenance provisions along with seeking proper authority to accept the grants and enter into the necessary agreements.

Attachment A – Pedestrian Projects

Attachment B – Bikeway Gap Projects

Attachment C – New Bikeway Projects