



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** April 7, 2015

**To:** Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral to:** Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways and Means Committee

**Subject:** **City of Minneapolis Submission for 2015 Hennepin County Bicycle and Sidewalk Grant Funding**

**Recommendation:**

A. Authorize proper City officials to submit a series of applications for Hennepin County funds through the Bicycle and Sidewalk Grant Solicitation.

B. Authorize proper City officials to commit local funds per the County's requirements to support the approved projects.

**Previous Directives:**

None

**Department Information**

Prepared by: Matthew Dyrda, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, 612-673-3642

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Mackenzie Turner Borgen, Pedestrian Planner  
Forrest Hardy, Safe Routes for Youth & Seniors Planner

**Financial Impact**

Action is within the approved budget.

**Community Impact**

City Goals: Satisfies city goals including:

Living Well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life.

High-quality and convenient transportation options connect every corner of the city.

Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected.

A City that Works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves.

## Supporting Information

On February 18, 2015, Hennepin County released a solicitation for grant applications for their Bicycle and Sidewalk Capital Improvement Program. The primary goal of the Bikeway Participation Program is to expand and enhance the Hennepin County bikeway network identified in the County's 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan. The primary goal of the Sidewalk Participation program is to support and enhance the network of sidewalks along Hennepin County Roads to improve the safety of walking, increase walking for transportation and improve the health of county residents through walking.

The two programs are each divided into two subcategories with the following parameters:

| Category                              | Total Available Funds | Funds Available Per Project | % County Funding Participation | Location Requirements  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Bikeway Construction                  | \$700,000             | \$100,000                   | 50%                            | City or County facilities on County 2040 Bicycle Plan          |
| Bikeway Feasibility Study             |                       | \$20,000                    | 50%                            | City or County facilities on Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Plan |
| Sidewalk/Pedestrian Construction      | \$200,000             | \$100,000                   | 25%                            | County facilities  |
| Sidewalk/Pedestrian Feasibility Study |                       | \$20,000                    | 25%                            | County facilities  |

Applications are due on April 17, 2015 and funding decisions will be announced in May of 2015. 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. Matching funds have been identified for the 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Bikeway through neighborhood NRP dollars. For all other projects, matching funds are available within the current CIP, beginning in 2016.

Priorities for the Bikeway and Sidewalk Participation Programs are based on the following criteria:

- Potential to improve safety and reduce crashes.
- Maintenance considerations, such as whether the bikeway will be maintained in winter and ongoing preventive maintenance costs. By submitting this application, Public Works will commit to maintaining the infrastructure for its useful life.
- Project readiness for construction, with priority to projects that are ready for construction in the 2016 construction season.
- Cost effectiveness, as determined by evaluation of the project cost compared to project length, connections to the Hennepin County bicycle network and projected use.
- Transportation purpose and direct connection to bicycle trip generators.
- Likelihood to support other goals and targets of the Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan. (Bikeway projects only)
- Likelihood of serving people who are "interested but concerned" about bicycling; separation from motor vehicles typically is the largest factor for them. (Bikeway projects)
- Priority level as identified in the Hennepin County Pedestrian Plan (Sidewalk projects)

## Bicycle Construction Projects

Based on the bikeway information provided by Hennepin County, Public Works identified projects from the County's Bicycle Gap Study Map and Bicycle Plan Map. Operations and maintenance of funded bikeway projects will be the responsibility of the City, so Public Works determined that it would only be appropriate to evaluate projects on City facilities identified on the Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Plan – not County facilities.

The following two projects were identified to be the strongest applications in the bikeway construction category:

- 24<sup>th</sup> St E Bikeway: Project could include a bike boulevard between Minnehaha Ave S and Seward Montessori School. 24<sup>th</sup> Street East from Hiawatha LRT Trail to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave S is a high ranking bikeway gap in the 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan. A portion of this gap between Hiawatha LRT Trail and Minnehaha Ave S is scheduled to be filled with standard bike lanes in 2015. The two additional blocks between 26<sup>th</sup> Ave S and Seward Montessori School could also be designated with Bike Boulevard markings in order to incorporate this Safe Routes to School connection.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Bikeway: Project could include a two-way on-street bikeway between Marshall St NE and University Ave NE. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE is an identified gap in the 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan with strong community support, including available NRP matching funds. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE was recently identified as a parallel bicycle route as part of the Lowry Ave NE Hennepin County Community Works Project.

On March 17, Public Works staff shared the potential projects with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). The BAC passed a motion supporting the staff recommendations.

## Sidewalk Construction 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-motor vehicle crashes were referenced.

The following two projects were identified to be the strongest applications in the sidewalk construction category:

- Lagoon Ave/W Lake St: Project could include durable crosswalk markings at signalized intersections, leading pedestrian interval implementation and additional street lighting where applicable.
- University Ave/4<sup>th</sup> St SE: Project could include durable crosswalk markings at signalized intersections, leading pedestrian interval implementation and additional street lighting where applicable.

## Public Works Recommendation

Public Works seeks authorization to submit a series of applications for Hennepin County funds through the Bicycle and Sidewalk Grant Solicitation and for authorization to commit local funds per the county's requirements to support the approved projects.

Attachment A – Map

Attachment B – Bikeway Projects

Attachment C – Sidewalk Projects