



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

Date: August 12, 2003
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Barbara Johnson, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: **Application for Federal Funding for Light Rail Transit Enhancements**

Recommendation:

1. Submit three applications for federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) funds passed through the state;
2. Commit up to \$1.65 million of local resources per federal requirements to support the approved TEA-21 projects including a 20% local match, local funding for all ineligible expenses related to the projects, and commit to implementing funding for ongoing operations and maintenance expenses.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared by: Heidi Hamilton, P.E., Engineer III – LRT Project, 673-3439

Approved by:

Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Heidi Hamilton, P.E., Engineer III

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain): If Federal funds are awarded, the City must appropriate local capital funds for these projects as well as fund ongoing operations and maintenance expenses of the projects for their useful life.

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information:

We are preparing three applications for Federal TEA-21 funds in response to the current Metropolitan Council solicitation for 2007-2008 funds. The three projects are eligible to compete

for funding in the Transportation Enhancements category, for which a total of approximately \$10 million is available in the Metropolitan area in 2007-2008. A maximum of \$1 million can be awarded to a single project and a 20% local match is required. In addition to the 20% local match, certain project expenses such as engineering and design are not eligible for Federal funding so the actual local cost will be greater than 20% of the total project cost.

Descriptions of the projects recommended for application for Federal funding follow.

Hiawatha LRT Corridor Infrastructure Improvements

This project includes the construction of various infrastructure improvements that will improve pedestrian accessibility and context sensitive infrastructure improvements around LRT stations from Cedar- Riverside to 50th Street. Improvements include installation of pedestrian level lighting, signage directing riders to LRT stations, and enhanced pedestrian crossings. Neighborhoods will be involved in design development.

5th Street Transit Corridor Improvements

This project will include the installation of a streetscape on 5th Street between Park Avenue and 1st Avenue North. The streetscape plan will be consistent with the final Downtown East and North Loop Master Plan that is currently under public review. In addition to the streetscape, this project proposes to construct the planters at the Government LRT station that were deferred due to LRT project budget constraints.

Hiawatha Multi-Use Path Lighting and Signage

This project will include installing lights along the multi-use path that is under construction as part of the Hiawatha LRT project between 28th Street and 11th Avenue. The project will also include trail signage and way-finding signage to direct users to the trail from adjacent neighborhoods.

Financial Impact

In order to apply for the funding, it is necessary for the City to commit to funding the local match. The local match for these projects has not been identified and is not included in the proposed 2004-2008 CIP. If the City is successful in obtaining Federal Funds, we will return to your Committee with recommended adjustments to the City's 5 year Capital Improvement Plan or alternative funding recommendations.

For each of the above projects, we recommend authorization for the following funding commitments:

Federal Funding request:	Up to \$1 million
20% Local Match:	Up to \$240,000
Local Funding for in-eligible expenses:	Up to \$310,000

Total Local Capital Funding Commitment: Up to \$550,000 per application

If the above projects go forward, additional operations and maintenance funding will be necessary for proper care of the installations. As part of the application, the City must commit to operate and maintain the property and facility of the project for the useful life of the improvement. An estimate of these costs and recommended funding sources will be prepared for your Committee prior to the City's acceptance of the Federal funds.

cc: Don Pflaum, Transportation Engineer
Mike Larson, Planner
Michi Wells, Grants Office

Mark Garner, MCDA
Jack Byers, Planner