IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA ITEMS/COMMISSION ORDERS

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Isle Casino Hotel
1777 Isle Parkway
Bettendorf

ITEM NUMBER TITLE SUBMITTED BY PAGE
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Commission Meeting in Ames

Staff Comments

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Application – City of Sioux City (Delegation)

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Application – Polk County (Delegation)

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Application – City of Urbana (Delegation)

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Application – City of Le Mars (Delegation)

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8:25 a.m. Public Input Session

*Action Item

On Monday, October 12, the Commission and staff will tour transportation projects in the Quad City/Clinton area starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Isle Casino Hotel, 1777 Isle Parkway, in Bettendorf and ending around 3 p.m. back at the Isle Casino Hotel. The Commission and staff will then hold an informal meeting at the hotel beginning around 3:30 p.m. Transportation-related matters will be discussed but no action will be taken.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Director's Office Director's Office
Order No. D-2010-19
Submitted by Connie Page Phone No. 515-239-1242 Meeting Date October 13, 2009
Title Approving Minutes of the September 15, 2009, Commission Meeting

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the minutes of the September 15, 2009, Commission meeting.

COMMISSION ACTION:

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Division Director Legal State Director
Commission Comments:

1. **Commission Tour of the Quad Cities/Clinton Area.**

   Chairman Sawtelle said this is one of four times during the year when the Commission has the opportunity to travel to different parts of the state to get public input. Yesterday the Commission and staff spent time touring area projects, discussing future needs and projects slated in the out years of the program, and seeing some recent transportation system accomplishments. The group started in Bettendorf and toured the Quad Cities area including the Interstate 80 bridge and Interstate 74 corridor; then worked our way to Clinton where we saw the Liberty Square project and Mill Creek Parkway; and then drove U.S. 30 to U.S. 61 back to the Quad Cities area.

   Chairman Sawtelle said the Commission and staff held a workshop after the tour. He noted no decisions are made at that workshop but that is where the Commission gets a lot of background and research. Everything that is on the agenda today was discussed at the workshop.
DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Sioux City submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the reconstruction of approximately 996 feet of Cunningham Drive from Washington Avenue south to Jay Avenue.

Because this project will provide access to four lots totaling more than 14 acres of RISE eligible development and to maximize RISE support for the project, staff evaluated the application as a RISE Local Development.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, it is recommended the Commission reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2009 round of applications and award a RISE grant of $507,585 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.

COMMISSION ACTION:

[Votes and Signatures]

Blouin  Cleaveland  Durham  Miles  Reasner  Sawtelle  Wiley
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE local development application from the city of Sioux City to reconstruct approximately 996 feet of Cunningham Drive from Washington Avenue south to Jay Avenue for the expansion of a business. However, based on capital investment, job creation, and lots to be opened by this proposed RISE roadway, it is better suited as a RISE local development project.

Mr. Markley said under RISE local development criteria, the project scored 57 points. Total estimated project cost is $1,015,169. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $507,585 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Sam Wagner, Sioux City Economic Development Specialist.

On behalf of the Mayor, city manager, and city of Sioux City, Mr. Wagner expressed appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of their RISE grant application and to DOT staff, Dakin Schultz and Becky Law, who made sure their application was complete. Over the last 15 plus years, the city has invested nearly $30 million to redevelop what were the largest stockyards in the country. Most of the area is a brownfield and they are actively redeveloping it for commercial and industrial purposes. They have seen some success in the area with the addition of a new Home Depot as well as two new industrial supply companies. Their current project is the Global Foods expansion which is a $7 million project that is getting underway and is the impetus behind their RISE grant application.

Mr. Wagner said they will use the funds to reconstruct a section of Cunningham Drive, and the city will be making its investment not only on the roadway surface but also in utility upgrades under the roadway, particularly storm water management. This will open approximately 20 acres for development.

Mr. Wagner said they will be partnering with Western Iowa Technical Community College to provide job training assistance for Global Foods and they are partnering with the chamber and the Department of Economic Development to market the area.

Mr. Markley reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Reasner moved, Commissioner Cleaveland seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2009 round of applications and award a RISE grant of $507,585 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds. Commissioner Durham abstained; remaining Commissioners voted aye.
DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Polk County submitted a RISE Local Development application in the September 2008 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 4,746 feet of Northeast 49th Avenue north and east to the end of the cul-de-sac to provide initial access to 17 lots totaling more than 63 acres for development in the Tonini Farm subdivision.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $1,196,197 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the county share of the RISE funds.
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from Polk county to construct approximately 4,746 feet of Northeast 49th Avenue north and east to the end of a cul-de-sac to provide access to 17 lots totaling more than 63 acres for development in the Tonini Farm subdivision. The project received a rating of 52 points. The total estimated project cost is $2,392,394, and the county is requesting a RISE grant of $1,296,197 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Bret VandeLune, Land Use Planning Manager for Polk County Public Works.

Mr. VandeLune said the project location is at the southeast intersection of the east Interstate 35/80 mixmaster. The area was recently designated within their comprehensive plan for heavy industrial development. They see the area as a great opportunity for manufacturing and warehouse development and have an existing warehouse and manufacturing company located at the south end of the project. The schedule would be for a spring construction. Sanitary sewer was extended last year to the east side of this site. The property owner has started marketing the site and a number of businesses have shown interest in locating in the area.

Mr. Markley reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Wiley moved, Commissioner Durham seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $1,196,197 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the county share of the RISE funds. All voted aye.
DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Mount Pleasant submitted a RISE Local Development application in the September 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 620 feet of Commerce Drive and 814 feet of Progress Street to provide initial access to approximately 70 additional acres for development in the Crossroads Industrial Park.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $226,681 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE local development application from the city of Mount Pleasant to construct approximately 620 feet of Commerce Drive and 814 feet of Progress Street to provide initial access to approximately 70 acres for development in the Crossroads Industrial Park. The project received a rating of 47 points. Total estimated project cost is $453,362. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $226,681 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Kiley Miller, Executive Director, Mount Pleasant Area Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Miller said government funding is about leverage. The Commission tries to leverage local funding and the city, in turn, tries to leverage private dollars. When it comes to Mount Pleasant, you get a lot of leverage. In the past the Commission has partnered with the city on infrastructure improvement projects in the Crossroads Industrial Park at the intersection of U.S. 34 and Avenue of the Saints. The city of Mount Pleasant has leveraged that into $20 million of private investment and, at one time, up to 600 jobs. The jobs are down a little bit because of the economy but they see them coming back.

Mr. Miller said this RISE project is another opportunity to leverage state money for private money. They need assistance to extend Commerce Drive and develop Progress Street so they can invite a beverage distribution center that is committed to utilizing a new section of their industrial park. Completing this roadway will open 70 acres for development that will create 40 jobs. They estimate, long-term, another 60 jobs will be created in the surrounding area for a total of 100 jobs. When considering what Mount Pleasant has faced of late with the shut down of several companies, they need to move forward aggressively and he requested the Commission’s support of this project.

Mr. Markley reviewed staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Miles moved, Commissioner Cleaveland seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $226,681 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds. Commissioner Wiley abstained; remaining Commissioners voted aye.
The city of Urbana submitted a RISE Local Development application in the September 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 1,550 feet of local road east of Iowa 150 and turn lanes on Iowa 150 to provide access to 10 lots totaling almost 69 acres for development in the new Industrial Park.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $440,542 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from the city of Urbana to construct approximately 1,550 feet of a local road east of Iowa 150 and turn lanes on Iowa 150 to provide access to ten lots totaling almost 69 acres for development in a new industrial park. The project received a rating of 50 points. The total estimated project cost is $881,084. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $440,542 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Chris Justice, Administrative Director, Urbana.

Mr. Justice expressed appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of their application. The RISE program offers a “great bang for the buck,” and this project makes a huge difference in a town like Urbana. The leverage and impact some of the other communities have talked about are even more pronounced when considering the scale of a project for a community their size. This project places 70 acres of farmland into commercial development between two interstate interchanges. This is a great return for the state in that it takes ground that is proximal to the interstate for development.

Mr. Markley reviewed staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Reasner moved, Commissioner Wiley seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $440,542 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds. All voted aye.
The city of Le Mars submitted a RISE Local Development application in the September 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 1,140 feet of Blue Diamond Drive from Hawkeye Avenue (Business 75) towards Holton Drive to provide access to eight lots totaling more than 17 acres in the Industrial Park.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $204,507 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by ___________________________ Seconded by ___________________________

Division Director  Legal  State Director
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from the city of Le Mars to construct approximately 1,140 feet of Blue Diamond Drive from Hawkeye Avenue (Business 75) toward Holton Drive to provide access to eight lots totaling more than 17 acres in the industrial park. The project received a rating of 56 points. The total estimated project cost is $409,013. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $204,507 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He noted Mayor Dick Kirchoff and City Administrator Scott Langel are participating by teleconference.

Mr. Langel said this project pretty much puts back into a functional use facilities that were closed by Harper’s Distribution Inc. The investment is between $1.5 million and $2 million, and the utilities are about 100 percent in place. The city of Le Mars has had a long history of successful RISE projects, starting in 1986. Some of their success stories are Bodine’s Baking Company which now has a cone factory and a wafer factory and a French-based company that makes containers for Wells Dairy. Another RISE grant benefited the Wells Dairy corporate campus and has been an overwhelming success with employment levels of between 500 and 700 employees. He expressed appreciation for those past RISE projects.

Mayor Kirchoff said they would not have been able to move forward like they have in the last four to five years without the help of RISE. They have been able to attract new factories and manufacturers. He expressed appreciation for everything the Commission has done for them in the past with the RISE program.

Mr. Markley reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Miles seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $204,507 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds. All voted aye.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office: Planning, Programming and Modal Division
Order No.: PPM-2010-25

Submitted by: Craig Markley
Phone No.: 515-239-1027
Meeting Date: October 13, 2009

Title: State Recreational Trails Program Funding Recommendations

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Review of the current round of applications for funding from the State Recreational Trails Program has been completed. The following recommendations will be presented:

- Allamakee County Mississippi River Bike Trail (Allamakee County and Allamakee County Economic Development) $750,000
- Cedar Valley Nature Trail Bridge at McFarlane Park (Black Hawk County Conservation Board) $250,000
- Des Moines River Regional Trail, Phase 1 (city of Des Moines) $73,474
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) AmeriCorps Trail Crew (Iowa DNR) $262,500
- Iowa River Corridor Trail Connection – Sand Lake (city of Iowa City) $281,000
- Lewis and Clark Historic Riverfront Trail (city of Sioux City and Iowa DOT) $128,000
- Pinicon Ridge Trail* (Linn County Conservation Board) $500,000
- Principal Riverwalk Recreational Trail* (city of Des Moines) $750,000
- Raccoon River Valley Trail Addition - Herndon to Waukee (Dallas County Conservation Board) $484,995
- Railbanking Purchase of IANW Railroad (Dickinson County Trails Board) $525,000
- Summerset Trail Flood Repairs (Warren County Conservation Board) $107,271
- Trout Run Trail - Box Culverts and Bridge Project (city of Decorah and Winneshiek County Conservation Board) $300,000
- Trout Run Trail - Decorah Fish Hatchery’s Interpretive Center Restroom Facility (Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. and Iowa DNR’s Fisheries) $75,000

*Per direct legislative appropriation.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the State Recreational Trails Program funding recommendations, as listed.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by ____________________________ Seconded by ____________________________

Blouin
Cleaveland
Durham
Miles
Reasner
Sawtelle
Wiley

Aye  Vote  Nay  Pass

Division Director  Legal  State Director
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, said the State Recreational Trails Program was created in 1988 for the purpose of establishing recreational trails in Iowa for the use, enjoyment, and participation of the public. Funding is available to cities, counties, state agencies, and non-profit organizations through an annual application program. The current round of applications was due July 1, and 49 applications were received requesting approximately $18.5 million. A recommendation was presented to the Commission at the September workshop to award funding to eleven projects including two direct legislative appropriations for a total of $4,487,240. However, due to the Raccoon River Valley Trail addition project receiving a $366,000 Iowa Department of Natural Resources Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant, we are revising the recommendation to subtract this amount for a grant to them of $484,995 and to use the $366,000 to fully fund the Railbanking Purchase for the IANW Railroad right of way of $525,000; fully fund the Iowa River Corridor Trail Connection – Sand Lake project at $281,000; and partially fund the Des Moines River Regional Trail, Phase 1 at $73,474.

Mr. Markley requested the Commission approve the revised State Recreational Trails Program funding recommendation as noted.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Wiley seconded the Commission approve the recommended State Recreational Trails Program funding. All voted aye.