



**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

ENGINEERING

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Prussing and Members of the City Council

FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Jennifer J. Selby, Civil Engineer

DATE: August 5, 2010

SUBJECT: Main Street Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Improvements –
Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Funds

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program

The State of Illinois Department of Transportation, through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), is currently accepting applications for financial assistance for projects that enhance the transportation system. The enhancement program allows the scope of transportation projects to expand beyond the traditional accommodations for cars, trucks and transit. The goal of ITEP is to allocate resources to well-planned projects that provide and support alternate modes of transportation. Federal funds may provide reimbursement up to 80% of engineering and construction costs. Applications are due August 31, 2010.

Background

The City previously applied for an ITEP grant for Main Street on May 5, 2008. The project applied for in that application was on Main Street from Cedar Street to Dewey Street. The proposed improvements included pavement repair, bike lanes, sidewalk ramps, traffic signal upgrades at Main Street & Race Street and Main Street & Broadway Avenue, pedestrian countdown timers, and a raised median. The City only applied for the grant for the work east of Vine Street. The work west of Vine Street was included in the grant application only for continuity between projects. This section of the project was intended to be paid for using TIF funds. The City learned in March of 2010 that we did not receive the grant and were encouraged to reapply the next round.

Project Description

The project applied for this round has been shortened to include Main Street from Grove Street to Dewey Street. The proposed improvements will involve functional repair of the pavement surface to provide bike lanes. The project will also include upgrading pedestrian ramps at all intersections along the corridor, repairing brick and concrete sidewalks on the north and south sides of Main Street, and extending of the sidewalk along the south side of Main Street to provide a pedestrian connection to Dodson Drive.

The bike lanes will provide approximately 1.5 miles of a continuous bicycle route between the High Cross Road Bike Path project on the east side of the City and the University of Illinois Campus on the west side of the City. The bike lanes will provide direct access to parks, Champaign County facilities, commercial establishments, Downtown Urbana, and residential subdivisions. The bike lanes will directly connect to eight other proposed or

existing bicycle facilities within the City's bicycle network, including an additional approximately one mile of bike lanes through downtown Urbana. The bike lanes will also connect to the proposed Rails-to-Trails project on the abandoned CSX railroad line.

The pedestrian sidewalk ramp improvements will provide safe locations for pedestrians to cross Main Street. The extension of the sidewalk at the east end of the project will provide a much needed pedestrian connection to Weaver Park and to a proposed trailhead for the future Rails-to-Trails project as well as the Scottswood subdivision.

The proposed bike lanes are a part of the larger Urbana Bicycle Master Plan. The Main Street corridor was the second most requested corridor at the two public workshops held during the development of the Master Plan.

The existing parking on the north side of Main Street from Grove Street to Glover Avenue will be removed to allow the addition of the bike lanes. The Urbana Traffic Commission voted in April of 2008 to approve the removal of parking, contingent upon the construction and marking of bike lanes. This item will come to Council for final approval after the grant status is known.

There is currently space to add bike lanes from Glover Avenue to Art Bartell Road. The section from Art Bartell Road to Scottswood Drive will undergo a "road diet" to convert the current 4 vehicle lanes to 1 lane in each direction, a two-way left turn lane and bike lanes. East of Scottswood Drive the bike lanes will be dropped and Main Street will become a Bike Route.

The project, when completed, will provide a logical alternative to the automobile for access to local amenities. It will provide for the public health and well being offering walking and bicycling as alternate transportation choices, and will contribute to improved air quality by promoting increased walking and bicycling over driving. This project has very strong community support and will be a major improvement to walking and bicycling safely in the City of Urbana.

The section of Main Street from Cedar Street to Vine Street is planned for construction in 2012 and will be designed and constructed using TIF funds. The section of Main Street from Vine Street to Grove Street is planned for construction later this year and is being designed and constructed using TIF funds.

Fiscal Impacts

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,997,000 in 2010 dollars. If the maximum enhancement grant is awarded - 80% - the City would receive \$1,597,600. City out-of-pocket costs would then be estimated at \$399,400. City Motor Fuel Tax funds would be used for the balance. A copy of the project cost estimate and the projected break down of the enhancement cost share is attached.

Council Action

The City Council is asked to approve a Resolution of Support for an Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Funds (Main Street Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Improvements).

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-08-022R

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AN APPLICATION FOR
ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

(Main Street Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Improvements)

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has expressed its commitment to the establishment of bicycle facilities throughout the City, as illustrated by the 2008 adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan as an official element of the 2005 Urbana Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Main Street corridor was the second most requested corridor for bicycle facilities based on public input; and

WHEREAS, there are funds available through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program for the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has determined that it is in its best interest to apply for said funding to further extend the City's bicycle network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The City Council finds and determines that the facts contained in the above recitations are true.

Section 2. That the Urbana City Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to submit a grant request on behalf of the City to the State of Illinois Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program for the purpose of financing part of the project costs of the proposed bike lanes and pedestrian improvements on Main Street and is authorized to execute any subsequent documents related to the submission of the grant application, and the subsequent receipt of funds through said grant.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2010.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor