



Agenda Item:

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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: August 23, 2004  
421

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Agenda Item Type: Resolution  
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

### SUBJECT—

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Fund Applications.

### SYNOPSIS—

Two projects to reduce congestion and improve air quality are proposed to be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program funding. They are (1) Fleur Drive Interconnection Upgrading and (2) Downtown Parking Facilities "Wayfinding" Project.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

Total construction cost for the Fleur Drive project is \$500,000, and for the Downtown Parking "Wayfinding" project is \$625,000. The City's share is 20 percent, or a total of \$225,000. The City would also be responsible for design/inspection services, estimated at \$160,000. If the projects are approved, the City's total share (\$385,000) is proposed to be funded from the Capital Improvements Program, Citywide Traffic Signal Interconnection, and Parking Facility Exterior Signing.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

## **BACKGROUND—**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program that directs federal transportation funds towards projects to reduce congestion and pollution. Iowa's share of the funding is \$4.7 million annually.

IDOT has established an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP), including guidelines on how to prioritize the disbursement of these funds. Their program is implemented through a statewide competitive application procedure that evaluates each proposed project, based on reducing congestion and pollution and thereby maintaining the clean air quality that Iowa now enjoys.

Types of projects that are eligible for this funding include Traffic Flow Improvements, Shared-Ride Services, Transit Improvements, Pedestrian and Bicycle Programs and others.

This year's project applications are required to be submitted through the Metropolitan Planning Organization to the Iowa Department of Transportation in August 2004.

The City has previously received funding for several projects through this program, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (\$5,500,000); the Downtown Traffic Signal System (\$3,000,000); the East 14th Street Signal System (\$800,000); the East Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$580,000); and the Northwest Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$400,000).

It is proposed that the City of Des Moines submit two projects for consideration for CMAQ funds to the Iowa Department of Transportation:

1. Fleur Drive Traffic Signal Interconnect Upgrade: This project will replace the current signal interconnect system along Fleur Drive with a fiberoptic system, connecting this arterial directly with the City's traffic operations center located at the Armory Building. A small number of observation cameras will also be included. The estimated project cost is \$500,000, of which \$400,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.
2. Downtown Parking Facilities "Wayfinding" Project: This project will install new electronic signing on the street approaches to the downtown parking facilities, in order to provide driver information regarding parking availability at these locations. This system would be capable of directing motorists to the nearest parking facility, and if that location is full, it would indicate where the next facility with available spaces is located. This will reduce vehicle-miles of travel and idling times for motorists within the downtown area. The estimated cost is \$625,000, of which \$500,000 of ICAAP funding will be requested.

## Funding and Schedule

The total construction costs of these projects are estimated to be \$1,125,000. CMAQ funding of 80 percent (\$900,000) is requested. The City's share of construction costs would be \$225,000, and \$160,000 for design/construction engineering. The City's total share of \$385,000 is

proposed from the Capital Improvements Program. If approved, the projects would be scheduled for construction in 2006.