



Brainerd City Council Agenda Request

Requested Meeting Date:

Title of Item:

Agenda	Action Requested:	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approve/Deny Motion	Direction Requested
P&F COMMITTEE	Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	Discussion Item
SPW COMMITTEE	Ordinance 1 st Reading	Hold Public Hearing*
MAIN AGENDA	<i>*provide copy of published hearing notice</i>	

Submitted by:

Department:

Presenter:

Estimated Time Needed:

Summary of Issue:

Alternative, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request:

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping:

Is this budgeted? (Please Explain)



MEMO

TO: SAFETY & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY ENGINEER/PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JESSIE DEHN

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2022

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION CANDIDATES

There are several infrastructure-related grants currently being solicited for applicants including from sources like MnDOT and MnDNR. Based on needs and priority of projects, as well as the eligibility of those priority projects, staff is recommending applying for three grant programs.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP)

The STBGP program is a competitive grant program that identifies priority projects within the Area Transportation Partnership which includes counties, cities and other agencies. Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded based on needs, availability and available funding.

Staff is recommending proposing the local share costs of the TH 210/Washington Street Reconstruction project as an application for STBGP funding. The project is currently planned for construction in 2026-2027. The STBGP grant is for projects in FY 2027. Below is a preliminary estimate of costs for the project.

Total Local Costs = \$4,000,000
BPU Watermain = \$1,500,000
Sanitary Sewer = \$125,000
Street Costs = \$2,375,000

This funding source would not be eligible for utility or engineering costs, however this could help provide funding to cover a significant amount of the street costs associated with the project. The program requires a 20% local match. If awarded funding to cover the entire costs, the local match would be roughly \$475,000, resulting in a grant amount of \$1,900,000. Staff would recommend applying for the maximum amount that the ATP would be willing to award to the project. Applications are due January 9th, 2023.

Jessie Dehn, P.E.
City Engineer/Public Works Director
City of Brainerd, MN

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP)

The HSIP program is a competitive grant program that assists with funding projects that addresses safety risk areas. One measure of safety risk is crash history. Based on one of the intersections with the highest crash rates within the City, staff is recommending proposing the construction of a roundabout intersection improvement at the intersection of S. 6th Street (MN Highway 371B) and Willow Street.

This intersection has a high crash history including a number of serious crashes. In the last 10 years, there have been 63 crashes at this intersection, 18 of which included some level of injury, 2 of those were serious injury crashes. This intersection was discussed in 2017 to identify improvements to address the issues at this location. It was stated at that time that the intersection did not meet the warrants to install a traffic control signal.

In discussions with the MnDOT District Traffic Engineer, this intersection continues to be concerning due to the conditions and continued crashes. However, the intersection would likely still not meet warrants for a traffic control signal and could potentially cause some of the speeding issues found with the highway traffic to increase. The Traffic Engineer would likely support a roundabout intersection improvement project should an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) study show that a roundabout would be an appropriate solution at this location.

The HSIP program is currently identifying projects in the years 2024-2027. This program requires a 10% local match. Based on discussions with MnDOT, this project could cost roughly \$2,000,000, which half covered by MnDOT and half covered by the City based on intersection legs. Using that methodology, should the project receive grant funding, the City's local match requirement would be roughly \$100,000.

Based on this cost and using a methodology that evaluates the Benefit/Cost Ratio based on dollars assigned to various types of crashes, this project has a Benefit/Cost Ratio of 3.89. The HSIP program requires a ratio of at least 1, which makes this project a good candidate for this funding based on that criteria. Applications are due November 23rd, 2022.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TA)

The TA program is a competitive grant program that funds various projects that improve safety for those who walk and bike within the community. The timing of the grant funding projects in FY 2027. There are several future programmed projects constructing segments of Cuyuna Lakes State Trail including MnDOT TH 25 bridge, NP Center to 28th Street extension, and the TH 210/Washington Street reconstruction project. Based on those factors, staff is recommending proposing a trail project along 10th Avenue NE between TH 25 and TH 210 as an application for TA grant funding.

This project would include curb adjustment to accommodate a trail section along 10th Avenue. Currently, as part of the TH 210 project, the trail would travel further west, nearly to 5th Avenue NE, to then return back east along TH 210. This project would provide a more direct off-street route for trail users to travel from south of this area to access future extensions of the trail heading east towards Crosby. In discussions with MnDNR, they would also be supportive of the project and would be willing to provide their assistance as available.

Jessie Dehn, P.E.
City Engineer/Public Works Director
City of Brainerd, MN

Projects utilizing this funding would require to be constructed in 2023 or 2024. Based on an preliminary estimate, the total project construction costs would be roughly \$225,000. The program requires a 20% local match, resulting in roughly \$45,000 of local funds required, not including engineering costs. Applications are due December 30th, 2022.



Jessie Dehn, P.E.
City Engineer/Public Works Director
City of Brainerd, MN