



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Grants now available for projects making streets safer for all users

Applications are now being accepted for \$75,000 in grant funding for projects that make the streets of Greater Des Moines safer and easier to use for all people, regardless of whether they walk, bike, drive, take transit or use a mobility device.

The Complete Street Tactical Starts grant program is part of the regional Complete Street Initiative of the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Last year, The Wellmark Foundation awarded the MPO a \$75,000 Matching Assets to Community Health grant in support of the initiative, including the grants program.

A complete street is one designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders. Complete streets can remove barriers to daily physical activity, promote more active transportation, and improve the health outcomes of the community.

Grant Requirements

- City/Municipality must be sponsor or co-sponsor
 - Other sponsors could include DART, HIRTA, community organizations or schools
- There must be a local match of at least 25 percent
- Projects must have a life cycle of two or more years
- An adopted complete streets policy is not required, but will factor into project evaluation

At least five grants of as much as \$15,000 will be awarded. Proposed projects will be evaluated based on their ability to provide a positive demonstration of complete streets design. Applications will be reviewed with an eye on how the project improves public health and safety, if it is replicable, how it adds transportation options for communities, and if it improves access and mobility of vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and underserved communities.

Applications are due by October 15, 2015, and can be completed at www.dmampo.org/complete-streets-grants. Projects selected for Tactical Starts will be notified by November 30. Projects must be completed by August 1, 2016. For further information or clarification, please contact Mike Armstrong at marmstrong@dmampo.org

The Complete Streets Tactical Starts Grant Program is part of a larger effort to encourage the implementation of complete streets throughout Greater Des Moines. A template complete streets policy was released earlier this summer by the MPO for metro-area governments to consider adopting. Windsor Heights adopted a complete streets policy, joining the cities of Carlisle, Des Moines and Norwalk, which already had complete streets policies.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. The MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.