

Des Moines - 6th Avenue Streetscape Project - Phase 1

<i>Sponsor</i>	Des Moines
<i>Project Title</i>	6th Avenue Streetscape Project - Phase 1
<i>Termini Description (i.e. Park Avenue to 19th Street)</i>	Hickman Road to College Avenue
<i>Total Estimated Project Cost</i>	\$1,400,000
<i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 TAP Request</i>	\$300,000
<i>Total Funding Secured</i>	\$550,000
<i>Source of additional funds and local match?</i>	\$100,000 STP-TE FFY16 \$200,000 STP-TAP FFY18 \$250,000 Iowa Great Places Community Challenge Grant
<i>Is this project seeking funding over multiple years?</i>	Yes
<i>How many consecutive years will funding be requested?</i>	3 Years
<i>What is the total anticipated TAP funding request over the multiple years?</i>	\$600,000
<i>Has your agency previously applied for TAP funds for this project?</i>	Yes
<i>Has this project previously been awarded TAP funds?</i>	Yes
<i>What category is this application applying under?</i>	Streetscape
<i>Existing street trees?</i>	Yes
<i>Proposed street trees?</i>	Yes
<i>What variety of tree(s) will be planted?</i>	Will include a mix of ornamental understory and overstory trees in appropriate varieties to compliment the corridor and landscape design.
<i>What is the spacing of street trees along the corridor (ft)?</i>	Varies. Generally 30' or less.
<i>If the project has additional landscaping, please describe.</i>	The project will include relatively low maintenance, native landscaping. The landscaping will primarily be located in the rain gardens and bioretention areas. The perennial landscape materials will be carefully selected to ensure that they support the green infrastructure system but also are salt tolerant.
<i>Does the project use green infrastructure to manage 1 1/4 inches of rainfall?</i>	Yes
<i>Describe how the project uses green infrastructure to manage 1 1/4 inches of rainfall?</i>	Project will include curb cut raingarden and bioretention areas to capture and infiltrate up to moderate rainfall amounts. These areas will include appropriate native landscape plantings. Heavier rainfall amounts will be allowed to flow through the raingarden and bypass into a storm sewer drain.
<i>Does the project use traffic calming measures?</i>	Yes
<i>Describe how the project uses traffic calming measures?</i>	6th Avenue currently functions as a 5 lane roadway, including 4 travel lanes and a shared center turn lane. The streetscape project proposes to reduce the number of lanes from 5 to 3, to include 2 travel lanes and a shared center turn lane. In addition, bump outs will be located at intersections to further improve pedestrian safety. Dedicated parking will also be present along the curb that along with the bumpouts will introduce side friction to further calm traffic and slow speeds.

<p><i>Describe the local support for the project.</i></p>	<p>The project has brought together a number of local partners to support the project. These partners include 6th Avenue Corridor Inc., Mercy Hospital, Wells Fargo, DMACC, Neighborhood Development Corporation, The Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul, Anawim Housing, the River Bend and Cheatom Park Neighborhood Association, and the City of Des Moines. These entities worked together to develop the streetscape plans and continue to work to fundraise for the project.</p>
<p><i>Describe the multipurpose aspects of the project.</i></p>	<p>The project will be modeled after other successful streetscape projects that have been constructed in Des Moines over the last several years. The proposed project supports DART Forward 2035 Plan, the Tomorrow Plan, as well as the City of Des Moines' effort to improve accessibility for multiple users and have more complete streets throughout the City. The 6th Avenue corridor is a vital link that connects downtown with the Des Moines River, the Neal Smith Trail, and other parks and greenways along the Des Moines River.</p>
<p><i>Describe the project's financial plan.</i></p>	<p>The City of Des Moines continues to commit \$1 million dollars annually in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for streetscape projects. A portion of these funds will be made available for this project. In addition, the City has received 2 prior allocations of STP funding from the MPO in the amount of \$300,000. If awarded, the FFY19 STP grant would be the final request to complete phase 1 of this project. The project has also been recently awarded a \$250,000 community challenge grant through the Iowa Great Places Program.</p>
<p><i>Describe the maintenance plans for this project.</i></p>	<p>A Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) will be created to fund the operation and maintenance of the project.</p>
<p><i>Describe the quality/significance of the site.</i></p>	<p>6th Avenue is a designated Iowa Urban Main Street District. The corridor was just designated as an Iowa Great Place and received a community challenge grant to go toward the first phase of the streetscape project. In addition, 6th Avenue was selected by the EPA to participate in the Greening America's Capitals (GAC) Program. The EPA's GAC Program provided technical assistance to create a sustainable vision for the project that incorporates green infrastructure and other sustainable design solutions.</p>
<p><i>Please describe the need for the project.</i></p>	<p>The existing sidewalk conditions are a serious concern. The sidewalks are as narrow as three feet in several locations along the corridor. There are instances where street sign poles and utility poles are located in the middle of the narrow sidewalk. These poor pedestrian conditions are the result of a roadway that has been expanded multiple times throughout the years within the limited 60-66' of right-of-way. The project will correct these issues and address the safety concerns that represent a critical need for this neighborhood and corridor.</p>
<p><i>Describe the relationship to other regional plans/projects.</i></p>	<p>The project closely relates to both the Tomorrow Plan and the DART Forward 2035 Plan. This project supports the implementation of the Tomorrow Plan by investing in Nodes and Corridors and helping to create resilient neighborhoods. The project supports the transit needs of the region with 6th Avenue being one of the busiest, if not the busiest DART route out of downtown and serving north Des Moines.</p>
<p><i>If applicable, please describe the status of the facility right-of-way.</i></p>	<p>Not Applicable. Project to be constructed in existing right-of-way.</p>
<p><i>Explain any urgency with the implementation of the project.</i></p>	<p>The project carries a great deal of momentum following the recent Iowa Great Places designation and challenge grant award. The project continues to raise both public and private funds. The continued success of this fundraising campaign will allow the project to be constructed within the next 3 years.</p>

Describe the impact to regional economic development and tourism.

The project looks to build upon the revitalization efforts ongoing along 6th Avenue and within the River Bend Neighborhood. The area serves as a primary employment center with major employers Mercy Hospital and DMACC. The project will help to better connect and tie together the neighborhood with these important resources and link to downtown. Several private redevelopment projects have moved forward or have been planned for the corridor since the streetscape project has been proposed. Additionally, vacant commercial retail spaces have filled up with the announcement of the streetscape plans. The latest being the restaurant Tacopocalypse announcing that they will be opening a pizza restaurant in the summer of 2015 at 6th and College.

