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MPO funding announced for projects advancing regional goals

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has awarded more than \$13 million to 16 transportation projects that improve Greater Des Moines.

The projects receiving funding range from trails, streetscapes and transit buses, to the reconstruction of existing roads and bridges, as well as the construction of new roads. The grants are available through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and administered by the MPO. A complete listing of funded projects is included below.

“With these funding awards, the MPO is helping advance the region’s goals for the transportation system,” Grimes Mayor and MPO Chair Tom Armstrong said, referring to the region’s long-term transportation plan, Mobilizing Tomorrow. Those goals are to enhance multimodal transportation options, optimize existing transportation infrastructure, improve the region’s environmental health, and further the health, safety and well-being of all residents.

The application process was competitive, with applications for 18 projects totaling more than \$33.5 million in requests. MPO staff scored the projects on how well they help meet the regional performance measures established in Mobilizing Tomorrow. Additionally, the public provided comments and feedbacks on the proposed projects. The STP Funding Subcommittee reviewed applications, scoring and public comment and made a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee, which approved the funding for the recommended projects on May 25.

Mobilizing Tomorrow is the long-range transportation plan for the year 2050 adopted by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in November 2014. The plan outlines how the MPO’s member governments throughout the Greater Des Moines region will invest approximately \$600 million in transportation funding over the next 35 years.

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.

Federal Fiscal Year 2021 STBG Project List

Primary Sponsor	Project Title	Project Cost	STBG Request	Project Category	Score	STBG Award
Roadway Projects						
Ankeny	West First Street Widening Improvement - Phase 1	\$4,800,000	\$1,500,000	Roadway	52	\$630,000
Carlisle	Scotch Ridge Road Improvements	\$3,249,000	\$1,949,400	Roadway	31	\$737,000
Des Moines	Southeast Connector - SE 30th Street to US 65 Beltway	\$50,000,000	\$2,000,000	Roadway	31	
Des Moines	East Douglas Avenue Widening	\$10,500,000	\$3,000,000	Roadway	48	\$2,000,000
Polk County	NW 26th Street Reconstructon Project	\$6,750,000	\$3,000,000	Roadway	23	\$750,000
Urbandale	170th Street (Alice's Road): Meredith Drive to Waterford Road	\$7,180,000	\$2,000,000	Roadway	32	\$600,000
Waukee	Alice's Road Widening	\$13,000,000	\$1,000,000	Roadway	42	\$600,000
West Des Moines	Grand Ave Widening	\$6,900,000	\$2,197,450	Roadway	35	\$1,000,000
West Des Moines	South Grand Prairie Parkway	\$16,000,000	\$8,000,000	Roadway	13	
Maintenance Projects						
Altoona	8th Street SW Reconstruction	\$18,700,000	\$3,000,000	Maintenance	60	\$1,270,000
Des Moines	Ingersoll Avenue Reconstruction	\$2,250,000	\$500,000	Maintenance	36	\$500,000
DOT	Pavement Rehabilitation on US 6/Merle Hay Road	\$750,000	\$250,000	Maintenance	44	\$250,000
Bridge Program Projects						
Ankeny	NE 54th Street Bridge Replacement	\$920,000	\$400,000	Bridge	n/a	\$400,000
Des Moines	Walnut Street Des Moines River Bridge Replacement	\$10,000,000	\$2,000,000	Bridge	n/a	\$2,000,000
Polk County	Replacement of Bridge No. 4261 on NE 82 Avenue.	\$1,742,000	\$900,000	Bridge	n/a	\$900,000
Transit Program Projects						
DART	Purchase DART Replacement Buses	\$5,076,000	\$1,400,000	Transit	n/a	\$1,400,000
Bicycle/Pedestrian						
Des Moines	Des Moines River Trail Phase 2	\$3,000,000	\$300,000	Bicycle/Ped	n/a	\$300,000
Warren County	Greenfield Plaza Safe Routes to School	\$240,000	\$192,000	Bicycle/Ped	n/a	\$192,000
Planning Studies/Other						
MPO	TMA Funds	\$95,000	\$95,000	Flexible	n/a	\$95,000
Total		157,912,000	33,191,850			\$13,624,000