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MPO funding announced for projects advancing regional goals

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has awarded more than \$15 million to 16 transportation projects improving Greater Des Moines.

The projects receiving funding range from widening streets and the reconstruction of existing roads and bridges, as well as trails, streetscapes and transit buses. The grants are available through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and the Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and administered by the MPO. The grant money becomes available for these projects in October 2021. A complete listing of funded projects is included below.

“We continue to enhance and optimize the region’s transportation system with these grants, in order to ensure we meet our long-term goals,” West Des Moines Mayor and MPO Chair Steve Gaer 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.

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 MPO 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 April 19.

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 2022 STBG/Set-Aside Funding Recommendation

Primary Sponsor	Project Title	Award Amount
Roadway Projects		
Ankeny	West First Street Widening Improvement - Phase 1	\$1,150,000
Carlisle	Scotch Ridge Road Improvements	\$700,000
Des Moines	East Douglas Avenue Widening	\$2,800,000
Des Moines	Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade	\$500,000
Polk County	NE 22nd Street Widening Project	\$950,000
West Des Moines	Grand Avenue Improvements	\$1,400,000
Maintenance Projects		
Des Moines	Ingersoll Avenue Reconstruction	\$500,000
DOT	Rehabilitation of US 6 in Des Moines	\$445,000
Urbandale	128th Street Maintenance, Douglas Parkway to Aurora Avenue	\$750,000
Bridge Program Projects		
Des Moines	Guthrie Avenue Viaduct Rehabilitation	\$2,000,000
Polk County	Bridge No. 3606 Replacement on NE Frisk Drive	\$542,800
Transit/Other Program Projects		
DART	DART Replacement Buses	\$1,410,200
MPO	TMA Program	\$95,000
Bicycle/Pedestrian		
Ankeny	High Trestle Trail Extension	\$600,000
Bondurant	U.S. 65 Underpass	\$400,000
Des Moines	Carlisle Trail	\$400,000
Des Moines	6th Avenue	\$500,000
Total		\$15,143,000