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MPO funding announced for projects advancing regional goals

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has awarded more than \$14 million to 18 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 2022. A complete listing of funded projects is included below.

“We continue supporting the region’s long-term goals by enhancing and optimizing the transportation system with these grants,” 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 2023 STBG Funding Awards

Primary Sponsor	Project Title	Termini Description	Past Award Amount	Request	Score	Award Amount
Roadway Projects						
Ankeny	NE Delaware Avenue Widening - NE 5th Street to NE 18th Street	NE 5th Street to NE 18th Street		\$2,000,000	60	\$1,000,000
Carlisle	Scotch Ridge Road Improvements	Bellflower Drive to Highway 5	\$1,437,000	\$500,000	40	\$400,000
Clive	US 6 & NW 128th St Intersection Improvements	US 6 (Hickman Rd) & NW 128th St		\$1,000,000	37	\$700,000
Des Moines	Southeast Connector	SE 30th Street to US 65	\$7,900,000	\$4,000,000	33	\$3,000,000
Johnston	NW 100th Street Reconstruction	NW 62nd Ave south to 1000 feet north of the NW 54th Avenue.		\$2,500,000	50	\$750,000
Norwalk	IA 28 & Beardsley Street Improvements Project	IA 28 (Sunset Drive) & Beardsley Street		\$1,100,000	50	\$700,000
Norwalk	IA 28 & North Avenue Improvements Project	IA 28 (Sunset Drive) & North Avenue		\$1,100,000	30	
Polk County	NE 22nd Street Widening Project	From NE 54 Avenue to 2600 feet north of NE 58 Avenue	\$950,000	\$950,000	31	\$800,000
West Des Moines	8th Street improvements	I-235 South Ramp to Clegg Road		\$1,500,000	60	\$1,000,000
Maintenance/System Optimization Projects						
Des Moines	Grand Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation	MLK Jr. Bridge to 28th Street		\$500,000	48	
Des Moines	Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade	Citywide	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	58	\$500,000
Windsor Heights	University Avenue Improvements	63rd Street to 73rd Street	\$231,000	\$2,000,000	65	\$500,000
Bridge Program Projects						
Des Moines	Walnut Street Des Moines River Bridge Replacement	Water St. to E. 1st St.		\$2,400,000	37	\$1,400,000
Polk County	Bridge No. 2444 Replacement on NW 86th Street	One mile north of NW 70th Avenue		\$900,000	34	\$600,000
Polk County	Bridge No. 6680 Replacement on NE 50th Avenue	2200 feet west of NE 88 St.		\$450,000	37	\$300,000
Transit Projects						
DART	DART Replacement Buses	Des Moines Region		\$1,440,000	N/A	\$1,400,000
Other/Planning Studies						
West Des Moines	University Avenue Corridor Master Plan			\$100,000	N/A	\$100,000
MPO	TMA Program			\$95,000	N/A	\$95,000
Total				\$23,535,000		\$13,245,000

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 STBG Set-Aside Funding Awards

Primary Sponsor	Project Title	Termini Description	Past Awarded Amount	Request	Score	Award Amount
Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects						
Ankeny	Oralabor Gateway Trail - SW State Street Overpass	Across SW State Street (Highway 415) on the south side of the intersection with SW Oralabor Road.		\$450,000	N/A	\$300,000
Bondurant	US65 Underpass	Underpass under HWY 65 from Grant Street to NE 70th Avenue	\$650,000	\$600,000	N/A	\$379,000
Des Moines	Carlisle Trail Connection	Easter Lake Spine Trail at E. Army Post Road to Des Moines municipal boundary at SE 38th Street	\$400,000	\$800,000	N/A	\$500,000
Total				\$1,850,000		\$1,179,000