



Engineering Department

DATE: September 15, 2020
FROM: Gabe Schell, City Engineer
ITEM: NDDOT Transportation Alternatives Funding Solicitation

REQUEST

Consider request to pursue NDDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Funding
Please place this item on the 9/22/2020 City Commission meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is soliciting local public agencies for projects as part of their Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. This solicitation is funded at an 80/20 split with maximum Federal dollars at 80% and a local share of 20%. The TA program provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities as well as Safe Routes to Schools projects. Project applications are due on September 30, 2020, to the Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) where they will be ranked and prioritized before sending to the NDDOT for review and potential award. All TA applications will be scored and prioritized by the MPO Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee prior to being presented to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee and MPO Policy Board. The project funding year is 2023. Additional information on the TA program can be found at the NDDOT's website below:

<https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/localgov/ta.htm>

I recommend pursuing the following projects. Both of these projects are recommended to be pursued under multiple NDDOT funding opportunities to provide additional flexibility to the NDDOT for available funding options if they elect to move forward.

Bismarck Expressway Pedestrian Facility

There are currently no pedestrian facilities along Bismarck Expressway between 18th Street and 26th Street on this corridor. Pedestrians can be observed on a daily basis utilizing the grassed areas behind the curbs. To improve safety, the City of Bismarck would like to propose a project to install a sidewalk along Bismarck Expressway which

would significantly improve safety by reducing the interaction of pedestrians on Bismarck Expressway. The long-term benefits after implementation would be realized through improved accessibility for non-motorized public and safety through a reduction in the potential interaction of pedestrians and motor vehicles.



State Street Multi-Use Trail – Calgary Ave to 43rd Avenue

A multi-use trail on State Street from Calgary Avenue to 43rd Avenue would address the needs of pedestrian traffic along this corridor that is currently unmet. A pedestrian facility has historically been incorporated into the larger urbanization of a facility (i.e. State Street south of Calgary Avenue) but with the urbanization north of Calgary Avenue is not identified at least in the next 5 years, consideration should be given to meeting the pedestrian need in the interim. This facility would tie into and provide additional connectivity with the pedestrian facilities incorporated into the 43rd Avenue reconstruction from Washington Street to State Street currently under construction as well as the facilities planned for construction as part of the upcoming 43rd Avenue reconstruction from State Street to 26th Street. The local share is typically 20% of total construction costs.



RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Approval of pursuing NDDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding for a

- 1. Pedestrian facility along Bismarck Expressway
- 2. Multi-use trail along US 83/State Street from Calgary Avenue to 43rd Avenue

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Gabe Schell, PE | City Engineer, 355-1505 or gschell@bismarcknd.gov