



Item: 2008 Community Transportation Enhancement Program - Prioritized Projects

From: Sherry Marshall, Transportation Planner I

Initiated By: Great Falls Planning Advisory Board

Presented By: Benjamin Rangel, Planning Director

Action Requested: Approve prioritized list of 2008 CTEP Projects

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission approve the prioritized list of 2008 Community Transportation Enhancement Program projects, as recommended by the Planning Board.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls the vote.

Planning Board Recommendation: On August 12, 2008, the Planning Board recommended the Commission approve the attached prioritized list of 2008 Community Transportation Enhancement Program projects.

Background: In June of this year, the Great Falls Planning Board solicited proposals from organizations, City Departments and others with a possible interest in the Program. Proposals were solicited through direct e-mailings, as well as paid advertisements in the Great Falls, Tribune. Review of the applications began shortly after the July 15 submittal deadline. The proposal review and prioritization process involved a special Planning Board meeting to hear presentations from the applicants, as well as time spent by Board members reviewing each of the proposals and individually completing an evaluation sheet. As a result of the review process, the Planning Board recommended the attached list of projects (Exhibit 1) for consideration by the City Commission.

Of the five proposals received, four were recommended for receipt of funds. The fifth project, a streetscape project on 1st Avenue South, was not recommended for approval. The four projects being recommended for approval are listed below, in order of preference.

1. **RIVERVIEW ELEMETARY BIKE/PED PATH** – The proposed project includes construction of two segments of trail. The west end connection will be funded with a \$50,000 grant from Safe Routes to School (SRTS). CTEP funds are being requested for the east end segment, which is adjacent to Smelter Avenue between 1st Street NW and Division Road. (\$22,857)
2. **SUN RIVER CONNECTION BIKE/PED PATH** – The proposed project includes construction of a trail located adjacent to Country Club Boulevard. The proposed trail segment would connect the existing bicycle/pedestrian facility on Warden Bridge to the 6th Street SW bike/ped underpass that is planned for construction in 2009. This trail segment will be constructed in two phases. Phase I, for which this grant has been requested, will include pre-design analysis, project design, and construction of 1,250 LF of sidewalk at the west end of the trail segment. (\$94,000)
3. **23RD STREET SOUTH SIDEWALK** – The proposed project includes construction of a concrete sidewalk and handicap accessible concrete ramps along 23rd Street South adjacent to the McLaughlin Research Institute. (\$35,513)
4. **POLICE STATION RESTORATION** – The proposed project includes the first phase of restoring the exterior of the Great Falls Police Department building. (\$66,388)

If approved by the City Commission, the projects will be sent to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for final approval. The Planning staff would then work closely with both MDT and the applicants to develop and implement the projects.

Concurrences: Representatives from the City Planning Department and the Great Falls Planning Advisory Board have reviewed and recommended the proposed projects and CTEP allocations as listed in Exhibit 1.

Financial Impact: Of the \$280,686 available to the City this year, funding of the recommended projects would commit \$213,993, with the remaining \$66,693 of unallocated funds placed in the CTEP reserve account. The Riverview Elementary Bike/Ped Path project would be matched by Great Falls Bicycle Club; the Sun River Connection Bike/Ped Path project would be matched by Recreation Trails, Inc.; the 23rd Street South Sidewalk project would be matched by the McLaughlin Research Institute; and the Police Station Restoration would be matched by the Great Falls Police Department. The financial impact to the City would be the \$10,290 match from the Police department.

Alternatives: The City Commission could vote to distribute the CTEP funds differently than the Planning Advisory Board recommends. This action could change the scope or prevent construction of one or more of the selected projects. Another alternative would be to allocate none of the 2008 CTEP funds, placing them instead into the CTEP reserve account.

Attachments/Exhibits:

1. 2008 Prioritized List of CTEP Projects (Exhibit 1)

| 2008 PRIORITIZED LIST OF CTEP PROJECTS - CITY OF GREAT FALLS | | | | | \$280,686 |
|--|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| PROJECT DESCRIPTION | RANK | PROJECT \$ | Other Funds | MATCH \$ | available for allocation CTEP \$ |
| RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY BIKE/PED PATH Construction of a segment of bike trail adjacent to Smelter Ave | 1 | \$76,400 | \$50,000 | \$3,543 | \$22,857 |
| SUN RIVER CONNECTION BIKE/PED PATH Construction of asphalt trail north and adjacent to Country Club Boulevard from Warden Bridge to 6th Street SW | 2 | \$143,570 | \$35,000 | \$14,570 | \$94,000 |
| 23RD STREET SOUTH SIDEWALK Construction of a sidewalk and concrete ramps along 23rd Street S adjacent to McLaughlin Research Institute | 3 | \$35,513 | \$0 | \$4,766 | \$30,747 |
| POLICE STATION RESTORATION Restoration work for the exterior of the Great Falls Police Department building | 4 | \$76,678 | \$0 | \$10,290 | \$66,388 |
| TOTALS: | | \$332,161 | \$85,000 | \$33,169 | \$213,992 |
| 2008 FUNDS TO BE LEFT UNALLOCATED: | | | | | \$66,694 |