

CITY OF DES MOINES

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ALLOCATION EXERCISE

Descriptions

Build two new aquatic centers or rebuild the existing five pools and aquatic centers. This project would allow for one of two options. The first option keeps all five of the city's current pools and aquatic centers and adds additional amenities to them such as additional water slides, a lazy river, or a flow rider. Each pool would likely only receive one additional amenity. The second option would tear down all five pools and aquatic centers and build two large new pools for the entire city. Each one would include significantly improved amenities when compared to existing facilities, but would be much farther from most people than they are today.

Increase funding for playground equipment. Would allow for replacing playground equipment more quickly. Current budgets allow for one playground to be replaced each year. Many playgrounds are past their recommended life span and are hard to find parts to replace broken elements. Would also add playgrounds in underserved parts of the city such as downtown.

Increase funding for books and other library materials. The DMPL per capita expenditure for materials is \$3.84. Whereas Iowa City per capita expenditure is \$9.97, Cedar Rapids \$10.33, and Ames \$6.79. DMPL expenditure, per capita, for materials ranks the second lowest in our cohort of 10 largest library systems in Iowa (with Sioux City being the lowest at \$3.58 per capita.)

Provide funding for combined dispatch center. In an effort to increase shared services and more efficient 911 call answering and dispatching, the Des Moines Police Department has worked closely with the Polk County Sheriff's Office on combining the separate 911 call centers into one shared center. Over the past two years, savings and efficiencies have been achieved through shared software and hardware. The combined dispatch center building costs would be shared with Polk County. Neither Polk County nor the Police department has available space to house a shared facility.

Provide funding for the Dean Avenue Viaduct. This project provides for the construction of a viaduct at Dean Avenue over the Union Pacific Railroad.

Provide funding for Connect Downtown. This project would provide the funding for improvements to the pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure downtown to support retail and housing development. Improvements could include protected bikeways, intersection bump outs, one-way to two-way street conversions, narrower auto lanes, crosswalk improvements, and transit only lanes.

Provide funding to relocate Fire Station #3. Station #3, 2458 Easton, needs to be relocated to an area closer to East 38th and Hubbell to address longer response times in the NE portion of the City. This improvement cannot be achieved through additional staff at the current location or through mutual aid agreements. This relocation is a recommendation of the 2014 Fire Station Study, is a GuideDSM strategic plan action item, and directly and positively impacts the City's strategic goals of being a high performing City organization, being financially sound, and upgrading City buildings.

Provide funding for 6th Avenue Streetscape. This project includes improvements to address walkability and revitalization of 6th Avenue. This project includes sidewalk improvements, bioswale green infrastructure, storm sewer, lighting, planters, and street furniture. The first phase of this project is from Hickman Road to College Avenue. The second phase is from College Avenue to University Avenue.

Provide increased funding for on-street bike facilities. This project would provide additional on street bicycle facilities such as painted bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and quiet streets to improve the on-street connections between the off-street trail system and employment and education destinations.

Provide funding to fill in missing sidewalk segments. Project includes constructing new sidewalk segments where they do not exist. This includes sidewalk gaps which are less than a half a block long. This also includes constructing sidewalks in neighborhoods where there is no sidewalk. This project will provide walkability improvements and sidewalk connectivity to neighborhoods. For every \$500,000 invested in this project, 10,000 linear feet of sidewalk could be constructed.

Provide funding for Market District Improvements. The Market District is an emerging development area south of the East Village along E. MLK Parkway and is located in the “Downtown Node” identified on the PlanDSM Future Land Use Map. There is immediate interest to develop urban-scale multi-family residential, office and retail uses that will add significant taxable value for the City of Des Moines. There are infrastructure deficiencies in the area that must be addressed for this development to occur such as unpaved streets and storm sewer. The proximity of Police, Fire, employment and commercial/retail services make this an area that is highly suitable for development and could result in a high return on investment by the City. Development of this area is highly aligned with the goals and policies of PlanDSM and strategies of GuideDSM.

Provide funding for watershed improvements. Would allow for establishment of greenways in areas of the city that have been designated watershed management authority areas. Currently that extends to Walnut Creek and Four Mile Creek in the City of Des Moines. Funding would be used for water quality improvements, property acquisition, creek restorations and improving the ecological function of the greenway.

Increase funding for improving the condition of city streets. Every \$1 million will pave 8 lane miles of residential street.

Provide funding for MacRae Park Improvements. Would allow for improvements to the park such as an improved overlook of downtown and the Raccoon River valley, improved road and trail loop, new playground, dredged pond and rebuilt shelter house. Currently private donations to the overlook have accounted for nearly \$500,000 of the project.

Provide funding for updated signal technology. The existing traffic signal system currently used in the city of Des Moines is outdated and limited in its ability to expand to accommodate future needs. The system needs to be upgraded to have progressive traffic systems that allow for advancement in connected vehicles and autonomous vehicle technology to provide improved traffic flow through the signalized intersections.

Provide funding to bury overhead utilities. This funding would finance the transfer overhead utilities to underground facilities. These projects would be constructed along with proposed construction projects to reduce inconvenience to the public and mitigate utility conflicts which impact construction schedules.

Provide funding for a fire department training tower. The City needs to build a training tower, or drill tower, in order to perform department training. The current facilities at the newer Fire Department Administration, Maintenance and Training (AMT) location were completed as the first phase of a larger project. The training tower and grounds were anticipated as future phases. Completion of a training tower will allow training for which there are no current alternatives in the City, will allow improved performance in the department’s Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, and meets the City’s strategic goals of being a high performing organization and upgrading City infrastructure.

New building permitting system. Modernize building permit and development processes by providing online case management, scheduling, and communications.

Increase funding for planting trees. Every \$250,000 will plant approximately 750 trees.

Increase funding for Park/Cemetery roads. Would allow for the repair and repaving of exiting park and cemetery roads and parking lots across the system.

Increase funding for trails. Funding would be utilized to connect more neighborhoods to the trail system and connect other areas of the city to the trail system. Regional connections to the Gay Lea Wilson Trail in Pleasant Hill and the Summerset Trail in Carlisle would be advanced as well.

Increase funding for sidewalk replacement. Project includes replacing existing sidewalk segments that were damaged due to trees within the right of way or caused by the City. These sidewalk replacements are initiated by complaints from the public and there is a backlog of sidewalk replacement locations. This project will maintain walkability and sidewalk connectivity within neighborhoods. For every \$500,000 invested in this project, 10,000 linear feet of sidewalk could be replaced

Provide funding for residential walkability/traffic calming. The city of Des Moines receives numerous requests for neighborhood sidewalk connections and traffic calming measures to slow speeds on residential streets. Currently there is limited funding to address these neighborhood issues. This project would provide an opportunity to make physical changes to residential streets to address citizen concerns associated with speeding traffic and sidewalk connectivity.

Rebuild Birdland Marina. Would allow for the reconstruction of the existing marina, increasing its size and the amenities provided to the slip renters.

Provide funding for Riverview Park Improvements. Would provide for the funding of improvements to Riverview Park such as a performance stage for concerts, a walking trail, picnic shelter and playground. Currently a private group is working to raise funding for the construction of the stage.

Provide funding to improve the condition of major roads. The major roadways within the City of Des Moines have not been adequately maintained in the past. The investment into these facilities will extend the life of some of the pavements. Other roadways that are beyond the point of rehabilitation will need to be removed and replaced with new pavements. An arterial pavement evaluation was completed and identified the location of needs along certain arterials that were studied within the City of Des Moines. The proposed rehabilitation methods is a combination of structural overlays to complete reconstructions.

Increase funding for the removal of abandoned housing. The strategic plan places priority on the removal or rehabilitation of the distressed housing stock in the city. Currently, demolition funding and rehabilitation limitations allow only a limited number of nuisance structures to be addressed each year. Increasing the funding for removal of those that cannot be rehabilitated, and stabilizing those that can would work to increase negative property values, reduce negative impacts, and provide needed affordable housing.

Increase funding for permanent park restrooms. Would allow for the inclusion of restrooms and permanent comfort stations in more parks as called for in the Parks and Recreation Departments restroom placement policy. Areas of high use would receive a permanent restroom. Parks with less use or neighborhood parks would receive a permanent comfort station.

Provide funding for digital communication system. Currently, Des Moines Police, Fire and various other city departments operate radios on the city owned and operated analog radio system. While functional, the system was built in the 1970s and is approaching end of useful life. The digital system will have additional public safety features allowing for the direct communication with surrounding communities and first responders as well as encryption and GPS location services. Several options exist to either join the newly built state system or pursue a leased network. Due to increased options and advancing technology, the cost of purchasing radios and joining a network have decreased significantly in the past several years.

Funding for Municipal Service Center Phase 2a. MSC Phase 2 will relocate City departments currently located in the Market District to allow for new development in that area. It is comprised of work at two separate sites. Site One is directly south of the current MSC building and will create approximately 120,000sf of space for Fleet, Radio Services and Solid Waste. Site Two is the current Public Works South Yard and will add 160,000sf of vehicle storage, as well as 25,000sf of support, shop and administration space.