



City of Grand Forks Staff Report

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

12/05/2016

Candice Stjern
Candice Stjern
Acting City Auditor

Committee of the Whole – November 28, 2016
City Council – December 5, 2016

Agenda Item: Federal Transportation Funding Request – Transportation Alternatives

Submitted by: Engineering Department, David J. Kuharenko, PE (Principal Civil Engineer)

Staff Recommended Action: **Approve the 2018 Transportation Alternatives project funding request and direct staff to submit the approved list in rank order to the Grand Forks – East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization for submission to the North Dakota Department of Transportation**

Committee Recommended Action:

Refer to City Council with the recommendation to approve.

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is soliciting projects to be funded by their Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. This program provides Federal grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered through the NDDOT. To be considered for Federal funding these projects must be vetted and approved by City Council and forwarded onto the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for consideration by December 7, 2016.

After considering possible projects for funding under this program, staff recommendation, in rank order, includes:

1. 6th Ave N (N 40th St to English Coulee) Shared Use Path \$241,000
2. 47th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 20th St) Shared Use Path \$318,000
3. S Columbia Rd (40th Ave S to 47th Ave S) Shared Use Path \$384,000

This program has approximately \$800,000 of funding available for projects statewide and a maximum Federal participation per project is limited to \$290,000. On average, this program awards funding to four projects, and in recent years there have been 10-15 applications each year. Depending on the decision of the selection committee, either the project ranked fourth or all of the projects that are awarded funding will not receive the full requested amount. This was the case in the City's application last year for the N 55th St Shared Use Path project. The City requested \$196,000 in Federal aid and was awarded only \$171,705. This is an 80% reimbursement program which only covers construction costs of the project. If a shared use path is approved by the NDDOT, the City will process environmental documents, prepare plans and install the improvements. Because of the more complicated nature of a grade separated pedestrian crossing, a consultant would need to be hired for that type of work. If the application is approved, the project will be added to the City's Transportation Improvement Plan. Projects will compete against each other and projects submitted by other entities throughout the state. Eligible projects include: shared use paths, historic preservation, recreational paths, and providing safer routes to schools. Last year, there were 14 applications, of these applications, only four received funding.

Projects previously approved for Federal funding under the previous iterations of this program include:

- 2014 – Shared Use Path on S 42nd St (17th Ave S to 24th Ave S)
- 2015 – Granitoid Pavement Preservation (Cottonwood St, 2nd Ave S, & 3rd Ave S)
- 2016 – Shared Use Path on Demers Ave (42nd St – 48th St) (Construction in 2017)
- 2017 – Shared Use Path on 55th St (Demers Ave – University Ave)

The list of projects considered for TA application:

1. Shared Use Path on 6th Ave N (N 40th St to English Coulee): This project would entail constructing a shared use path likely along the north side of 6th Ave N from N 40th St and connect to the existing bike path at the English Coulee. This area has an existing 5' wide sidewalk on the north side of the street for the entire length, and an existing sidewalk on the south side from approximately 39th St to the English Coulee. This portion of 6th Ave N is also adjacent to Lake Agassiz Elementary School as well as the North Dakota State School for the Blind. Bicycle accommodations are restricted by the limited right of way, road width, as well as a railroad crossing with a median, which reduces the available road width even further. There are also existing obstructions on the south side of the road preventing a shared use path from being installed. It is anticipated that as part of the reconstruction of 6th Ave N, the section path from 42nd St to 40th St will be reconstructed in 2017 and provide a connection to the proposed shared use path. By removing the area affected by the railroad crossing it also reduces the complications associated with a Federal aid project.
2. Shared Use Path on 47th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 20th St): This project would entail constructing a shared use path likely along the south side of 47th Ave S from S Columbia Rd and connecting to the existing shared use path at S 20th St. This portion of 47th Ave S is mostly developed with commercial and residential on the north side and Ulland Softball Complex on the south side. According to the six year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) this segment of 47th Ave S is scheduled for reconstruction in 2018. Preparation for the location of this shared use path can be incorporated into the design of the reconstruction project to minimize conflicts.

3. Shared Use Path on S Columbia Rd (40th Ave S to 47th Ave S): This project would entail constructing a shared use path likely on the west side of S Columbia Rd from 47th Ave S and connecting to the existing shared use path at 40th Ave S. Property along this portion of S Columbia Rd is still developing and this segment of S Columbia Rd is scheduled to be bid on December 16th 2016 and reconstructed with Federal funding in 2017. Preparation for the location of this shared use path can be incorporated into the design of the reconstruction project to minimize conflicts.

4. Pedestrian Grade Separated Crossing at S Columbia Rd near 43rd Ave S: Discussions are currently being held between City staff and Grand Forks School District staff regarding a pedestrian underpass. The school district has previously requested that the engineering department consider a pedestrian underpass near the intersection of S Columbia Rd and 40th Ave S. The engineering department takes these requests seriously and conducted a reconnaissance level review of the proposal. In this review a large number of utility conflicts and insufficient right of way were noted. The projected future pedestrian and vehicle counts at this location did not meet warrants for a grade separated crossing and with the lack of a City policy for locating such a crossing, a pedestrian underpass was not pursued during the design of the project. In addition, a public input meeting for the S Columbia Rd (40th Ave S to 47th Ave S) reconstruction project on August 27, 2015. The public input meeting was advertised through NDDOT, the Grand Forks Herald, and the City of Grand Forks press release. In addition, the Grand Forks School District was also notified directly through mail for the meeting. The advertisements and individual letter requested written comments be submitted by September 11, 2015 however, no comments were received regarding a pedestrian underpass within the project limits. With the recent bicycle/vehicle accident at the intersection of S Columbia Rd and 40th Ave S, there has been a renewed interest in an underpass near this location. Though previous discussions targeted a pedestrian underpass located near 40th Ave S, recent discussions have shifted the desire more towards the intersection at 43rd Ave S.

Based on the November 21, 2016 City Council meeting, it was discussed that this proposed project should not be applied for through this program, and that if it were to proceed would likely be as a locally funded project.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- The list presented by staff is believed to meet the program requirements.
- Council approval is required prior to submittal to the MPO by December 7, 2016. Thereafter it will go before the MPO Technical Advisory Committee meeting on December 14, the MPO Executive Board meeting on December 21, and then forwarded to NDDOT.
- TA projects will utilize Federal Funds for construction of eligible items at a participation rate of 80% with a 20% local share. With a maximum Federal participation amount of \$290,000.
- It is assumed that if awarded, the project will be designed and inspected by in-house staff. No additional costs for an outside consultant have been included in the project cost estimates.
- Funding source for City costs of a shared use path projects will be from the Bikeway Capital Maintenance Fund 4108.
- Letters of support for the above mentioned shared use paths projects have been received from the Greenway, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- 2017 TA Application Ranking and Awards (1 page)
- 2018 TAP Federal Funding Project List with Cost Estimates (1 page)
- Project Location Map (1 page)
- MPO Letter of October 2016 Requesting TAP Projects for Fiscal Year 2018 (2 pages)

Urban Projects – 2017 Transportation Alternatives (TA)				
Ranking	City	Project	Federal Funds Requested	Federal Funds Awarded
1	Fargo	Oak Grove/Memorial Parks Pedestrian Lift Bridge	\$290,000	\$250,000
2	Dickinson	21st St to 10th Ave Shared Use Path	\$290,000	\$250,000
3	Bismarck	Sertoma Park Shared Use Path	\$166,763	\$138,750
4	Grand Forks	N 55th St Shared Use Path	\$206,372	\$171,705
5	Minot	Washington Elementary School SRTS	\$267,956	
6	Williston	26th Street Shared Use Path	\$168,822	
7	Cass County	County Road 17 Shared Use Path	\$181,178	
8	Fargo	5th St Extension Shared Use Path	\$161,860	
9	Valley City	Rosebud Visitor Center Access	\$290,000	
10	West Fargo	Drain 45 Multi-Use Path	\$287,302	
11	Williston	11 th Street Sidewalk	\$35,295	
Total			\$2,345,548	\$810,455

Rural Projects – 2017 Transportation Alternatives (TA)				
Ranking	City	Project	Federal Funds Requested	Federal Funds Awarded
1	Kenmare	Kenmare Scenic Trail - Phase II	\$200,000	\$150,000
2	Beulah	Multi-Use Wellness Trail	\$200,000	\$150,000
3	Powers Lake	Powers Lake Safe Routes to School	\$200,000	\$150,000
4	Grafton	Safe Routes to School	\$200,000	\$150,000
5	USDA Forest Service	Interstate Trailhead - Maah Daah Hey Trail	\$22,134	
6	Beach	Multi-Use Trail Expansion	\$157,337	
7	Fessenden	Fessenden Safe Routes to School	\$152,640	
8	Medora	Bike Path to Recreation Area & Campground	\$101,531	
9	New Town	New Town SRTS Improvements	\$111,392	
10	Cass County	Northern Cass Pass	\$178,855	
11	Gwinner	Northwest Area Sidewalks	\$196,923	
12	Minto	School Route Accessibility Sidewalks & Ramps	\$121,395	
13	Tioga	Signal Road Safe Sidewalk Project	\$200,000	
14	Ray	7th Avenue Shared Use Path - Phase I	\$186,139	
15	Walsh County	Drain 25 Embankment/Bike Path Rehab Project	\$200,000	
16	Richardton	Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing	\$12,771	
17	Napoleon	Napoleon Public School Sidewalk	\$68,378	
18	LaMoure Co	Chan SanSan (James River Valley) Scenic Backway	\$7,866	
19	Spirit Lake	Four Winds Walkway Reconstruction Project	\$110,138	
20	Wishek	Wishek Safe Streets	\$13,028	
21	Belfield	Belfield Dam Recreational Area Shared Use Path	\$126,480	
22	Standing Rock	Cannon Ball Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway	\$200,000	
23	Wilton	Train Depot Exterior Rehabilitation	\$38,260	
24	Belfield	Belfield Dam Recreational Area Sidewalk	\$129,048	
25	Surrey	Surrey Sidewalk Addition	\$161,334	
26	Mapleton	First Street Shared-Use Path	\$200,000	
27	Brocket	Sidewalk Revitalization Project	\$6,798	
28	Rutland	Rutland 2016 Sidewalk Project	\$64,360	
Total			\$3,566,807	\$600,000

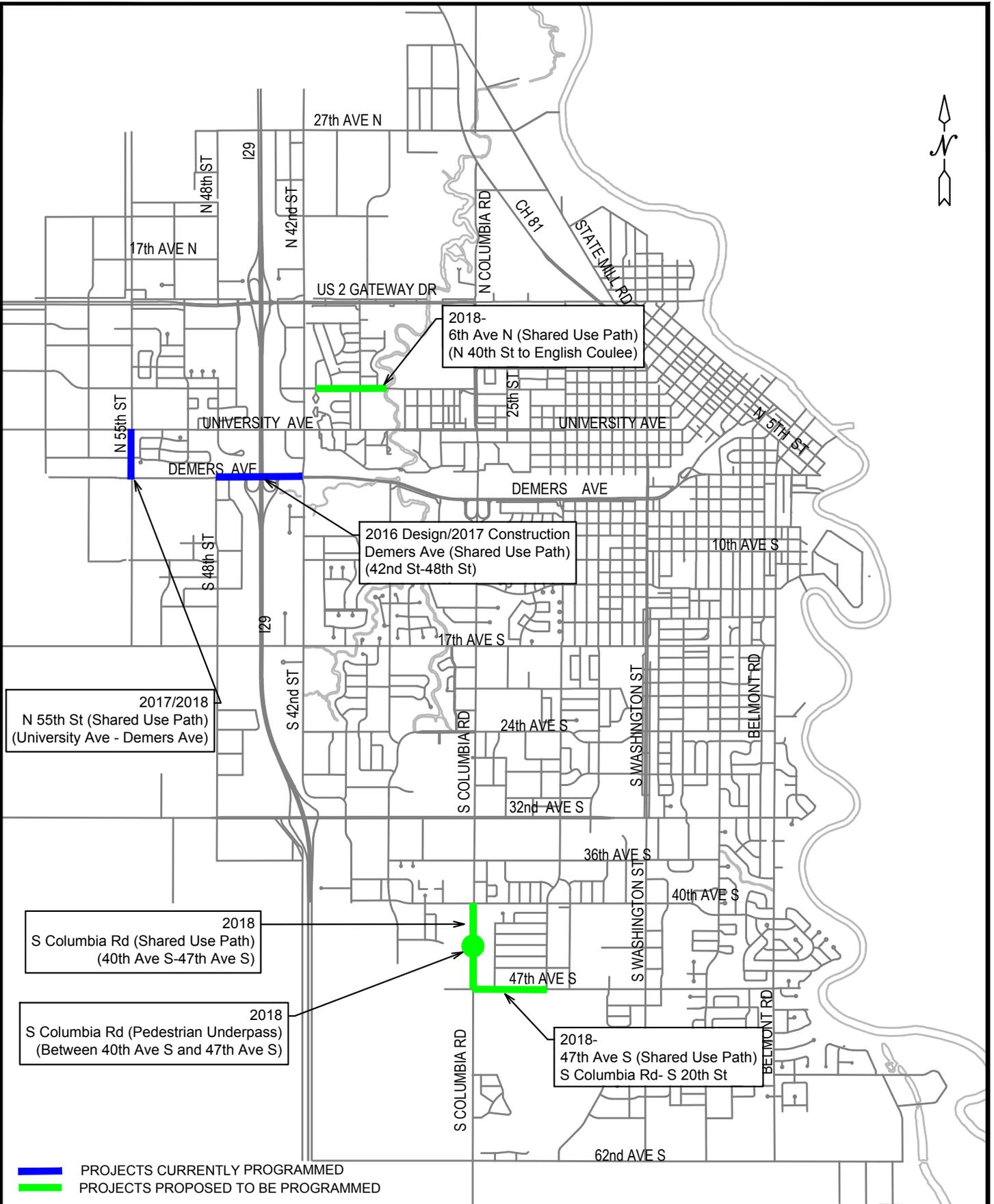
TA REQUESTS
CITY PROJECT SUMMARY 2017-2018
GRAND FORKS NORTH DAKOTA
SUBMITTED IN 2016

DATE: 11/17/2016

Allen Grasser
701.746.2640

FISCAL YEAR	CATEGORY	TYPE OF WORK	PROJECT LOCATION	TOTAL FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY MATCH	FEDERAL SHARE	STATE SHARE	CITY MATCH	CITY OTHER R/W	MISC	TOTAL CITY COST	TOTAL PROJECT COST
2017	TA	Shared Use Path	N 55th St University Ave to Demers Ave	\$255,000	\$171,705	\$0	\$83,295	\$0	\$7,000	\$90,295	\$262,000
2018	TA-1	Shared Use Path	6th Ave N N 40th St to English Coulee	\$234,000	\$187,200	\$0	\$46,800	\$0	\$7,000	\$53,800	\$241,000
2018	TA-2	Shared Use Path	47th Ave S S Columbia Rd to S 20th St	\$311,000	\$248,800	\$0	\$62,200	\$0	\$7,000	\$69,200	\$318,000
2018	TA-3	Shared Use Path	S Columbia Rd 40th Ave S to 47th Ave S	\$377,000	\$290,000	\$0	\$87,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$94,000	\$384,000
			2017-2018 Totals	\$1,177,000	\$897,705	\$0	\$279,295	\$0	\$28,000	\$307,295	\$1,205,000

Newly requested projects are listed in bold text.



█ PROJECTS CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED
█ PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE PROGRAMMED



CITY OF
 GRAND FORKS
 ENGINEERING
 DEPARTMENT

Transportation Alternatives Program Requests
 City Project Summary 2017-2018
 Grand Forks North Dakota
 Submitted in 2016

DATE
 11/9/2016
 SCALE
 NTS

CITY PROJECT
 7578
 PAGE
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October 13, 2016

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

TA PROGRAM SOLICITATION FOR 2018-2021

The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is soliciting for projects to the fiscal years (FY) 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a four year financially constrained priority list of projects within the MPO planning area funded with federal, state and local dollars. This solicitation letter is for Transportation Alternative program (TA) projects for the construction year 2018. Separate letters have been sent to solicit for other federal aid programs.

Your agency is being sent this letter since it has received, either directly or jointly with another formally eligible direct recipient, awards of federal funds from former programs such as Transportation Enhancements (TE) and/or Safe Routes to School (SR2S). FAST continues the consolidation of these programs into the TA. Further, the only eligible sponsor of these funds is the City of Grand Forks. The School District, SAFE KIDS GF, Park District, and others are still eligible to receive the funds; however, they must pass through the City – hence sponsoring agency. Therefore, this letter informs you that if you desire to seek TA funds, you must vet your project through the City's process.

Estimates of federal revenue available each year of the next TIP is difficult to predict. Nonetheless, we still need to prepare a new TIP. The MPO understands that this is still an evolving process for programming FAST projects. We stand ready to assist you in preparing the required information. The MPO is relying on the application form promulgated by NDDOT. After the application has been properly acted upon by the City Council, the information requested in the attached forms should be submitted directly to the MPO. The deadline for submittal to the MPO is **December 7th**.

The MPO staff will review the projects for consistency with the Transportation Plan and project eligibility for the requested funding program. The information will be presented to TAC. The TAC will review the information and forward a recommendation to the MPO Executive Board. Following the review and acceptance of the projects by the MPO, the project information will then be forwarded to NDDOT. Then, the MPO and the NDDOT will cooperatively work out programming TA funds for insertion into the TIP/STIP.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this. We trust that further improvements to the TIP process will continue to ensure that the best projects for our metropolitan area are being funded. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Earl Haugen
Executive Director

Enc.

Cc: District Engineer
NDDOT Local Gov't Division