

2. Upon direction from the Manager's Office, the Planning Department began gathering information for the subject grant application in mid-July. Pre-applications from project sponsors were due no later than July 26, 2010. This pre-application form was submitted prior to the above noted deadline date on behalf of the Unified Government, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000, for the purposes of Master Planning the Prince Avenue and Oak / Oconee Street Corridors in order to develop more efficient modes of transportation coupled with workforce housing opportunities and appropriate environmental design opportunities. Further, the pre-application was submitted contingent upon the M&C approving the submission at the September 7, 2010 M&C Meeting.
3. Planning Department staff began work on corridor studies for both the Prince Avenue and Oak/Oconee Street Corridors in 2009. It is the opinion of staff that, if awarded, the grant provides an excellent opportunity to take the staff initiated studies to the "next level" through the development of a comprehensive master plan for both corridors.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The purposes of the project for which the grant funds are being requested are noted below:
 - a) Design specific multi-modal transportation facility improvements for both corridors (including enhanced transit service, expanded bicycle facilities and improved pedestrian programming) that reduce passenger vehicle trips and support renewed investment along each corridor.
 - b) Develop policies and programs that provide incentives for private redevelopment of commercial and institutional properties along each corridor;
 - c) Develop policies and programs that provide incentives for public and private redevelopment of residential infill and redevelopment in support of workforce housing and increased affordability in the neighborhoods adjacent to each corridor; and
 - d) Develop "green" infrastructure adjacent to each corridor that incorporates Low Impact Development (LID) principles, addresses environmental degradation, improves the form and function of the public realm within and adjacent to the right-of-way and reinforces the gateway experience along each corridor into Downtown Athens.
2. The deadline for grant application submission is August 23, 2010 with award announcements made available after September 15, 2010. If awarded, projects must be initiated within 120 days of Grant award and all funds must be obligated by September 30, 2012. Staff plans to submit the grant application by the August 23, 2010 deadline contingent upon M&C approval of such action at the September 7, 2010 M&C Meeting.
3. Given the limited scope of project details at this point and the 120 day commencement window upon award, staff does have concerns with the available timelines associated with final project concept approval. In addition, a project of this potential scope would require the use of a consultant working in conjunction with staff from several Unified Government Departments. The selection process for an appropriate consultant also poses challenges within the given 120 day window.

4. It is anticipated that if awarded, the Planning Department Work Program would need to be modified in order to accommodate a project of this scope within the allotted 18 month time period.

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a) Authorize submission of an application for a combination USDOT TIGERII/ HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant, in the amount of \$200,000, to fund the development of a Prince Avenue and Oak / Oconee Street Master Plan
 - b) Authorize acceptance of the subject grants if awarded, and
 - c) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all necessary documents.
2. Mayor and Commission deny authorization to submit the grant applications.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a, b, & c

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Planning



Date: 8/12/10

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a, b, & c



Manager

Date: August 13, 2010