

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning & Development Services

TO: David L. Corliss, Lawrence City Manager

FROM: Bart Rudolph, L-DC MPO Transportation Planner

CC: Scott McCullough, Planning & Development Services Director
Todd Girdler, L-DC MPO Senior Transportation Planner
Cynthia Wagner, Lawrence Assistant City Manager
Diane Stoddard, Lawrence Assistant City Manager

DATE: 2/11/10

RE: Approval to Apply for Douglas County Community Foundation Grant through LiveWell Lawrence.

Please place the following item on the City Commission consent agenda for consideration at their February 16, 2010 meeting:

Authorize staff to apply for a Douglas County Community Foundation Grant through the LiveWell Lawrence Coalition. Grant funds will be used to host a one-day Complete Streets workshop and funding will be sought in the total amount of \$9,000. The deadline to submit the Grant Inquiry Form to LiveWell Lawrence is February 17, 2010.

Background Information:

The Douglas County Community Foundation is seeking grant proposals for projects that:

- Advance goals in the LiveWell Lawrence Community Action Plan, and/or
- Establish a sustainable framework that will foster and support healthier eating and increased physical activity across our community.

The LiveWell Lawrence Community Plan aims to help local governments, schools and the larger community adopt policies and practices that will:

1. Make healthy foods more available and unhealthy foods less available in public venues such as schools, child care centers and city and county buildings;
2. Encourage county residents to produce and consume more local foods, and expand the number of places where local foods are available;
3. Offer all children 30 minutes a day of quality physical activity during school hours, and 30 additional minutes outside of school hours;

4. Design all streets with safe access for all users--walkers, bicyclists, wheeled-device users, transit riders and drivers.

LiveWell Lawrence has indicated that there is approximately \$200,000 available in grants and other assistance to spread over a two year period. Favored projects, indicated by the coalition, are those that make progress toward accomplishing the Community Plan's goals, create sustainable systemic changes that have the potential to impact broad populations, and are based on meaningful, specific outcomes.

About the Complete Streets Workshop:

The Planning & Development Services Department proposes to submit a grant application to fund a one-day Complete Streets workshop developed by the National Complete Streets Coalition. The full-day, highly interactive workshops are customized to help approximately 30 key decision makers, stakeholders, elected officials, and agency professionals learn how to more effectively balance the needs of all users and routinely create and maintain "complete" streets. Each workshop is led by two nationally-known Complete Streets design and policy experts who help participants learn:

- Why Complete Streets are important; what they are – and are not.
- The many avenues to Complete Streets; and
- How Complete Streets can help achieve multiple transportation, health and community goals.

These workshops take participants far beyond the typical session focused on design specifics, to an understanding of how to transform the decision-making process itself.

Research and developing a Complete Streets policy has been a long-standing goal of the Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee and supports the transportation goal established by the Lawrence City Commission in July 2009 to improve access for all citizens.

What are Complete Streets:

Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access and inviting road networks for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a Complete Street. Complete Street policies direct planners and engineers to consistently design with all users in mind. Complete Streets improve safety, encourage walking and bicycling, address climate change and oil dependence, and foster strong communities.

Current Planning for Complete Streets:

The Planning & Development Services Department and KU's School of Architecture, Design & Planning is working on a multimodal transportation planning project that will include a comprehensive review of multimodal best practices and Complete Street policies in comparable Midwest cities, identify roadway types in Lawrence for possible implementation, and deliver a study and white paper that align with the goals of improved multimodal

transportation planning. This workshop would help transition from the PDS/KU research project to developing a policy or set of guidelines for the City of Lawrence.

Grant Specifics:

The grant would cover 100% of the \$9,000 cost to deliver a one-day workshop and lunch for the participants. The fee also includes initial consultation with the instructors, their preparation time, travel, and up to two hours of post-workshop consultation. The National Complete Streets Coalition also provides detailed planning guidance for the workshop as well as participant packets with extensive information about complete streets.

Grant Inquiry Forms are due by February 17, 2010 and will serve as a screening tool and allow for some feedback from the grant selection committee before time is spent in developing a full grant proposal. The Douglas County Community Foundation will review the inquiry forms and select proposals that align best with the LiveWell Community Plan's goals. Projects selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by March 5, 2010 and a final application deadline will be given. If selected to proceed, the Planning & Development Services Department will submit a full grant application on behalf of the City.

Action Requested:

Authorize staff to apply for a Douglas County Community Foundation Grant through the LiveWell Lawrence Coalition to host a one-day Complete Streets workshop.