

Council Agenda Report

Date: April 24, 2017
Submitted by: Odie Wheeler, Director of Public Works
Prepared by: Pat Escher, City Planner, A.I.C.P.

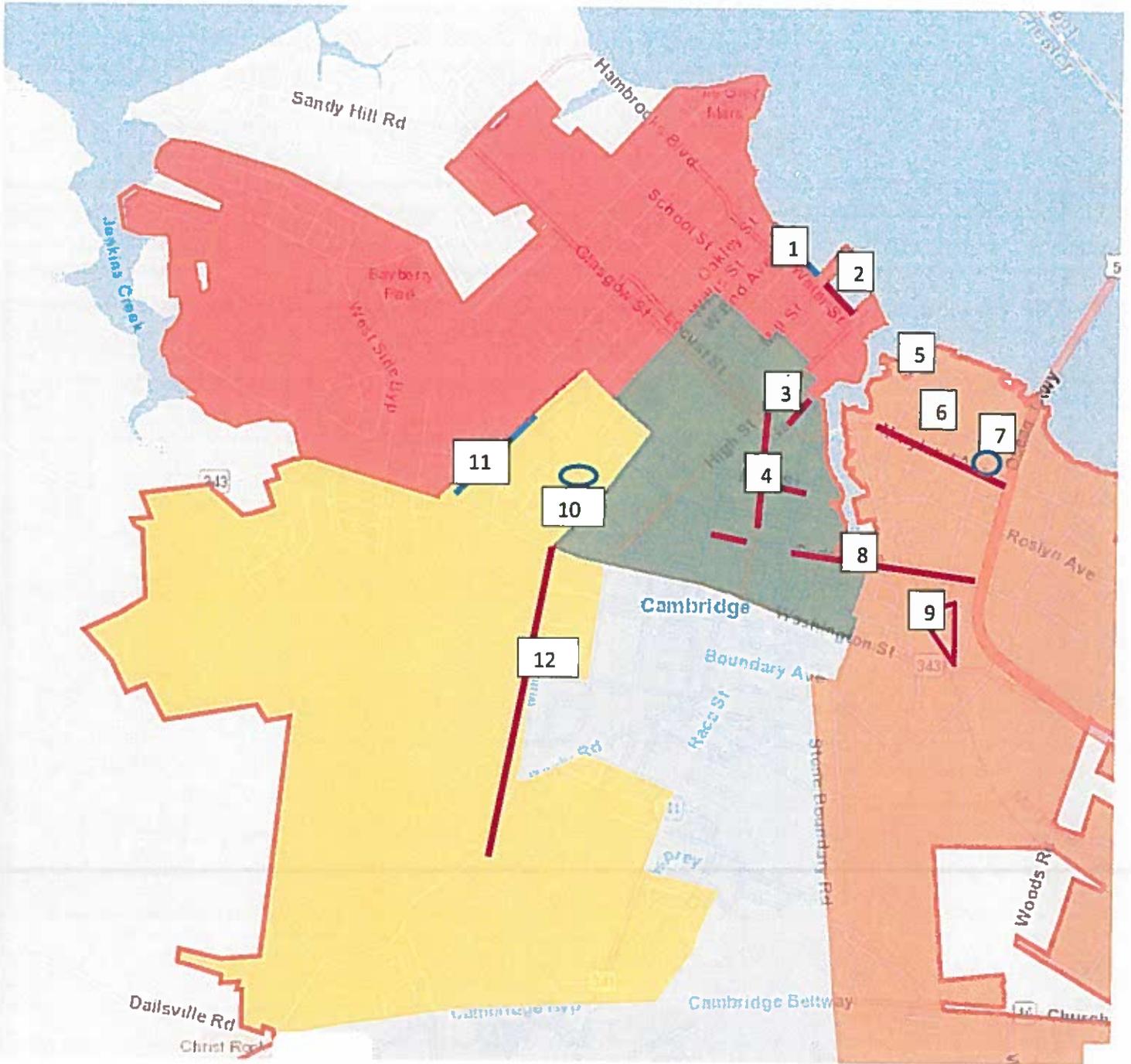
SUBJECT: Grant Funding Opportunities

Recommendation: That Council schedule a work session on grant funding opportunities on May 8, 2017 at 5:00 pm to discuss matching opportunities to desired projects.

Discussion: City staff historically researches state funding sources available every year to help plan, design and/or construct projects within the City. The City has applied for funds from State departments such as Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and been very successful in securing grants from the State. Recent examples of that would be pedestrian, lighting and/or street improvements along Maces Lane, Gay St., Muir St., Race St., and Maryland Avenue. The City secure 1.8 million dollars from DNR to restore the headwaters of Cambridge Creek and has another grant application for the development of a regional park. Additionally, the City purchased the two blighted properties along Rte. 50 and demolish those structures with the intent of building a Gateway feature welcoming visitors to the City. The City also uses these grant funds for repairs of the marina, the reconstruction of the Sailwinds wharf and the investigation and design for new sea walls along at the end of Choptank Ave. West End Ave, Willis St, and Oakley St.

This report offers a partial list of potential grants and potential projects. Staff will be prepared to discuss these and others at the work session.

Below is a graphic showing some of the areas of the City that work has performed by the previous grants received (indicated in red) and showing some of the areas of proposed improvements for the upcoming cycle (indicated in blue).



- 1. Sea walls
- 2. Marina/Long Wharf
- 3. Gay Street
- 4. Race Street
- 5. The Wharf
- 6. Maryland Avenue

- 7. Miller Property
- 8. Cedar Street
- 9. Cambridge Creek
- 10. Housing Authority Drainage
- 11. Leonard's Lane
- 12. Mace's Lane

Some examples familiar to staff include. This list of grants above is not all inclusive and more will have been researched by the time of the work session

Maryland Historic Trust

African American Heritage Preservation Program Grants for Capital Projects – Requires a one for one cash match

Historic Preservation Loan Program for Capital Projects

- Acquisition
- Rehabilitation / capital improvements
- New construction
- Predevelopment costs such as studies, surveys, plans and specifications, and architectural, engineering, or other special services directly related to pre-construction work for a capital project (eligible for short-term financing only)

Maryland Freedom Fleet Voucher Program

Assists with the purchase of electric vehicles

Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Program

Assists with the purchase of electric vehicles

Program Open Space – Local

Land Acquisition and Planning – Needs coordination with Dorchester County

Maryland's Community Resiliency Grants

Cleaner, safer water in the Bay watershed through restored streams and floodplains, enhanced riparian buffers and forests, improved wetland ecosystems, and comprehensive stormwater management.

- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Grant
- Implementation of the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program
- Acquisition and Construction Projects
- Coastal Zone Enhancement Projects
- Coast Smart Communities Grant Program
- Explore and Restore Maryland Streams
- Habitat Restoration and Conservation

Critical Area Commission For The Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays

Ongoing grant for land development review within Critical Areas. (\$1,000.00)

Commercial Clean Energy Grant Program

Receive financial assistance to install solar photovoltaic, solar water heating, geothermal heat pump, and wind turbine systems.

EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate income Grant Program

Local governments and non-profits can apply for competitive grants to enable energy efficiency projects that benefit low-to-moderate income Marylanders.

The list below are the grants that are currently being considered by for recommendation to Council and will be discussed in the work session. The Maryland Bikeways Program and CDBG have deadlines for submission in at the end of May.

Maryland Bikeways Program

Description: supports projects that maximize bicycle access and fill missing links in the state's bicycle system, focusing on connecting bicycle-friendly trails and roads and enhancing last-mile connections to work, school, shopping and transit.

Match requirements

- 80% funding with 20% match required

Proposed amount

- Approximate cost \$225,000.00

Proposed project

- The application would be for the rails to trails portion of Cannery Park.
- Grant Deadline: May 26, 2017

CDBG Grant

Description: funds to help strengthen Maryland's communities by expanding affordable housing opportunities, creating jobs, stabilizing neighborhoods and improving overall quality of life.

Match requirements

- None required; 25% cash match receives full application points

Proposed amount: \$450,000 (total for two projects)

Proposed projects

- Ward 3 housing rehabilitation program, based on recent housing blight study, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity (\$175,000.00)
- A grant for fixing drainage at the Housing Authority property (\$275,000.00)

Grant Deadline: May 31, 2017

DHCD Grants

Community Legacy

Description: provides local governments and community development organizations with funding for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

Match requirements: None

Proposed amount: \$475,500 (total for three projects)

Proposed projects

- Façade Improvement Program (FIP) The City submits requests for funding for this project on an ongoing basis and usually receives funding which is evenly divided between commercial and residential properties. (\$100,000)
- The installation of a sidewalk along one side of the street from Cosby Lane to Leonard's Lane. (\$350,000.00)
- Retractable bollards for DT – During special events, the City uses a movable barrier which requires personnel to stand by them and ensure that they are not moved. Retractable bollards would eliminate this need as when they are raised, they will not be able to be removed. (\$7,500)

Strategic Demolition

Description: invests in activities that accelerate economic development and job production in existing Maryland communities. The Fund aims to improve the economic viability of "grey field development" which often faces more barriers than sprawling "green field development."

Match requirements: 25% cash or in-kind match

Proposed amount: \$450,000

Proposed project:

- Purchase and removal of the Miller Building located on Maryland Avenue directly adjacent to the Gateway properties. This project would facilitate the development of a new right hand turn and eliminate the potential for a dangerous turning movement into the Shell gas station. It would also add land to the Gateway project, thereby creating a better design.

Grant Deadline: June 8, 2017

Approved by: 