

Council Agenda Report

Date: May 10, 2017

Prepared and
Submitted by: Sandra E. Tripp-Jones, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Work Session – Grant Opportunities

Recommendation: That Council:

- A. Hear a presentation by staff;
- B. Discuss grant project priorities;
- C. Informally identify high interest matches of projects to grant opportunities.

Discussion:

Attachment A is a listing Grant Opportunities that may be candidates for applications for high priority city services and projects. Here follows in this report 18 potential projects, ranging from ones of recognized interest to Council to others that staff have identified to other initiated by outside organizations. And Council may want to see applications submitted for other projects.

Please note:

- Due dates in “orange” because they are due very soon.
- Projects in “light blue” as probably needing more study before they are ready to be submitted on a funding application.
- Staff could not generate the applications for all these nor manage them even were they all funded.
- Match is often required.

Also Attachment B is a communication from Matt Pluta from the Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, with suggestions for possible grants:

- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program**
 - \$30k for design project, \$75k for implementation projects
 - Deadline: March 2018
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Outreach and Restoration Grant**
 - \$50k for implementation projects, \$75k for outreach + implementation projects
 - Deadline: September 2017

During the work session, staff will make a presentation on the potential grants and ask Council to discuss their priorities. Depending on the opinions in the work session, Council will be asked during the regular Council meeting to consider authorizing submission of applications for CDBG and Community Legacy grants which are due in May and June.

Eighteen (18) Potential Projects:

Project No.	Project Title	Ward	Est. Cost	Match Portion	Funding Source	Dept	Due Date
CIP18-08	DT Traffic Bollards	3	\$ 4,000	0	DHCD Comm. Legacy	PW	June 8
CIP18-31	Sidewalks Leonard Lane	2	\$350,000	0	DHCD Comm. Legacy	PW	June 8
CIP19-02	Sidewalks Dorchester – Cedar to Washington	5	\$300,000	0	DHCD Comm. Legacy or CDBG	PW	June 8
CIP19-06	Woods Road Upgrade (with County)	5	\$1,800,000	\$180,000	US EDA & MAERDEF	PW	?
CIP19-27	Fire Tower Truck replacement	All	\$1,250,000	\$250,000 – \$415,000	Assistance to Firefighters/ FEMA		
CIP19-13	Rebuild marina docks	1	\$250,000	\$ 50,000	MD DNR Waterways Improvements	Mari na PW	April 2018
CIP19-02	Long Wharf Master Plan Implement.	1	\$ 100,000	0% to?	MD DNR-Comm. Parks & Playgrounds	PW	Aug. 17
CIP19-10	Housing Auth. Drainage Improve.	2	\$275,000	0 – 25%	CDGB	PW	May 31
CIP19-15	Cannery Park Improvements	5	\$500,000	0%+	MD DNR-Comm. Parks & Playgrounds	PW	Aug. 1
CIP19-20	Marina Dredging	1	\$250,000	\$0 to \$125,000	MD Waterway Improvement Fund/DNR	PW	Aug. 15
CIP21-02	Bayly Road safety improvements	4	\$200,000	\$40,000	Safe Routes to Schools/MD Highway Admin.	PW	May 15

Council Goals and Grant Opportunities:

B.2	Housing: low-income homeowner housing rehab	3	\$250,000	0% funding commitment if matched	MD DHCD Comm. Legacy	PW	June 8
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B.2	Housing: façade improvement: commercial & residential	City-wide	\$100,000	0% we require property owner match	MD DHCD Comm. Legacy	Econ. Dev.	June 8
B.2	Housing: Blight Reduction Plan	City-wide or focused	\$50,000 Est.	?	MD DHCD	PW	?
B.3	Housing: blight study with Salisbury Univ.	City-wide	\$20,000	\$2,000 requested	Mid-Shore Regional Council	PW	?
B.7	Housing: code enforcement	City-wide	\$50,000 +-	?	DHCD – dept. not known	PW	?
E. 15	Child & Youth Development: Convert Maces Lane School into a comm. center	2	Up to \$100,000 grant or loan	Grant: 100%	MD Historical Trust (African American Heritage Preservation Program)	City Manager	July 15

Other:

Cont'd project	Cannery Park: Rails to Trails	5	\$225,000	\$45,000	Maryland Bikeways	PW	May 26
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Attachment A -Grant Opportunities (5/8/17)

Grant Program/ Funding Agency	Potential City Projects	Description	\$ Ranges	Match	DUE
A. Sidewalks and Bikeways					
1. Safe Routes to School/ MD Highway Admin	Sidewalks	K-8;thru County:school partners		20% cash	15-May
2. Maryland Bikeways Program/MDOT	Rails to trails at Cannery Park	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.	\$250,000	20%	26-May
B. Low and Moderate Income Housing					
3. CDBG/DHCD	Pine Street Area Housing Rehab (\$250,000); Repair of drainage at Housing Authority property (\$275,000).	Neighborhood revitalization, housing opportunities, economic development and improved public facilities and services. Gives maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit low and moderate (LMI) persons and households having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 lower income limits established by HUD; - aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or - meets community needs that are of an urgent nature or an immediate threat to community health and welfare	\$800,000		31-May
4. Maryland Housing Rehab and Special Targeted Applicant Rehab/DHCD	Low income home owner home rehab loans. Not a city project but could be incorporated into a City home rehab project -	Home rehab loans to individuals, secured by mortgage. For Special Target program - 0 interest deferred. Individual loans facilitated by LG or local non-profit	value of home		open

5. Housing Preservation Grants/ USDA	Housing rehab	Grants to sponsoring organizations for the repair or rehabilitation of housing occupied by low and very low income (1) people. Ind. property owners not eligible. Landlords may be eligible if guarantee low income renters.	TBD
6. Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants/ USDA	Unknown; Not a City project but could be folded into one.	Ind. property owners; loan is low interest over 20 yrs. Loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.	Open Max. loan: \$20,000; Max. grant: \$7,500; can combine: \$27,500
7. RMPHF – Rural MD Prosperity Investment Fund/MD Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)/Rural MD Council	Infrastructure, workforce housing	Rural regional infrastructure projects would provide matching grants for projects that involve two or more units of local government and are related to broadband, water, wastewater, transportation, workforce housing, and commercial/industrial facilities up to 25 percent of the total project cost. Workforce housing is defined as housing targeted to 80 to 120 percent of median income of the community in which the employees work.	Min. 75% match required \$527,833 for whole State

C. Residential, Commercial, Industrial

<p>8. Community Legacy/DHCD</p>	<p>1) Façade Improvements, 2) Leonard's Lane, 3) DT retractable bollards, 4) acquisition of vacant/abandoned buildings and strategic demolition, 5) acquisition and streetscape improvements in Pine Street area, 6) acquisition of properties for land banking; 7) home rehabilitation programs.</p>	<p>Mixed-use development consisting of residential, commercial and/or open space, business retention, expansion and attraction initiatives, streetscape improvements ; increasing homeownership and home rehabilitation among residents; residential and commercial façade improvement programs; real estate acquisition, including land banking; and strategic demolition: housing, infrastructure, businesses, open space, strategic demolition, acquisition of vacant buildings and unimproved land. Establishing funds to provide loan guarantees and credit enhancement to leverage other public or private financing.</p>	<p>\$500,000 +</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>8-Jun</p>
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<p>9. Neighborhood Intervention Component of Community Legacy/DHCD</p>	<p>Residential and commercial revitalization program, e.g., Pine Street area or along Washington Street</p>	<p>Function as a preventative measure either in or outside of a designated Sustainable Community to address problem properties that are having a negative impact in an otherwise largely stable community. The TWO eligible uses of a project are: - Purchase of properties that need rehabilitation and redeveloping the properties through rehabilitation, demolition, reconstruction or re-use; Strategic demolition of buildings that are dangerous for use or occupancy, or so deteriorated that rehabilitation is not feasible, and preparation of the property for revitalization, redevelopment or re-use.</p>	<p>\$500,000 max - loans and grants; loans to be repaid from income from the property</p>	<p>8-Jun</p>
<p>10. Historic Preservation Loan Program for Capital Projects/MD Historical Trust</p>	<p>not known - could be part of a housing rehab package or commercial revitalization</p>	<p>Acquisition, Refinancing, Rehabilitation, Predevelopment Costs. The assisted property must be listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register. A perpetual preservation easement on the assisted property must be conveyed to MHT.</p>		
<p>11. Strategic Demolition Funds/DHCD</p>	<p>Purchase of the Miller Bldg to expand MD Ave. Gateway</p>	<p>Demolition • Site acquisition and assembly • Site development, public infrastructure improvements • Construction level designs • Stabilization</p>	<p>\$250,000 - \$500,000</p>	<p>8-Jun</p>
<p>12. DHCD</p>	<p>Housing Planning; housing code enforcement</p>	<p>Not sure the exact source - staff has been referred to individuals in DHCD</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>?</p>

13. CDBG/MD Dept. of Commerce	Unknown	Can be used for public improvements for business startup or expansion, or for business loans. Projects must create jobs with the majority targeted to individuals of low to moderate income, or eliminate blight conditions that impede commercial and industrial development. Acquisition of fixed assets, infrastructure, and feasibility studies.		
14. MidShore Regional Council/US EDA	Economic Dev. Projects, e.g., Woods Road improvements	This sources focuses on infrastructure mostly with some other small grants possible. They have to be consistent with the CEDS strategy. Note that US Economic Development Agency applications need to go through Mid Shore Regional Council.	20%	Jan with interest proposal in Oct.
D. Public Art				
15. Public Art Project Grants/ MD State Arts Council	Public art as part of Pine Street Area redevelopment, streetscapes,	In door and outdoor art.	Up to \$5000	100% Probably October
E. Parks, Community Centers				
16. AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM/MD Commission on African American History and Culture and the MD Historical Trust	Maces Lane School/Community Center - predevelopment and development costs	Capital grants to assist in the preservation of buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in MD Acquisition, rehabilitation, capital improvements, new construction. Predevelopment costs, e.g., studies, surveys, plans and spec. eligible for short term financing.	up to \$100,000	100% 15-Jul

<p>17. Community Parks and Playgrounds Program/ State DNR</p>	<p>Creekside land for park land and development; Cannery Park development costs; Maces Lane School outdoor recreation development; Great March Park restrooms and facilities; Long Wharf "park" facilities</p>	<p>1)development of new parks; 2) rehabilitation of existing parks; 3) expansion or improvement of existing parks; 4) purchase and installation of playground equipment; 5) development of environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects; 6) development of new trails or extension of existing trails; 7) creation of access points to water recreation resources; 8) acquisition of land to create new parks. While land acquisition costs may be considered for project funding, the highest priority will be placed on capital costs associated with park development and improvement. Will either need a deed to the property held by the project applicant or a joint use agreement signed by the property owner.</p>		<p>no match required but may not grant 100% of project cost</p>	<p>Aug. 17</p>
<p>18. MD Waterway Improvement Fund/DNR</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Evaluation of water oriented recreation needs and capacities of Maryland waterways and the development of comprehensive plans for waterway improvement projects.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>		<p>?</p>

F. Marina

19. MD Waterway Improvement Fund/DNR

Engineer, construct, dredge

a. 100% State Grants (Not to exceed \$5,000) The Department may expend a total of \$125,000 each fiscal year, for a total of (25) grants not exceeding \$5,000 each, for projects such as minor construction, repair, and navigation projects at public boating facilities. b. 100% State Grants (Not to exceed \$100,000) Projects for developing and maintaining public boating facilities and installing marine sewage pumpout stations.
c. 100% State Grants (In excess of \$100,000) Projects for dredging, marking channels and harbors, construction of jetties and breakwaters; clearing debris, obstructions, and abandoned boats from navigable waters; as well as construction of boating facilities on lands owned or leased by the Department of Natural Resources.
d. Matching Grants (Max. 50% State Cost Share) Projects in excess of \$100,000 may be financed on a 50/50 matching basis (50% maximum state cost share) with a local jurisdiction for the engineering, construction, and maintenance of public boating facilities, dredging channels and harbors, and acquiring marine fire/rescue boats and equipment (Maximum of \$50,000). Governing body may not use other State funds as their share of the 50% match.
e. 100% Interest Free Long Term Loans (Tax Districts) A local governing body may borrow interest free funds for a maximum 25 year term for waterway improvement projects within a Waterway Improvement Tax District. Statutory limits apply to the use of these funds. Projects can include dredging/navigation, spur channels, and boating access related facilities.

0% - 50%

Aug. 15

20. Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program Summary	rebuild docks	construct, renovate, and maintain boating infrastructure facilities for transient recreational vessels at least 26 feet long	\$200,000	25% +	Apr-18
G. Clean Water					
21. Green Street, Green Town, Green Jobs/Chesapeake Bay Trust; 20) Outreach and Restoration/Chesapeake Bay Trust; 21) Tech. Service Provider Grants/US Fish and Wildlife	Parks, tree canopy, stormwater mgt - bioretention on Market St.	Recommended by MidShore Riverkeeper Conservancy.	\$105,000; \$150,000; \$50,000 respectively	not quantified but both in-kind and cash	Feb-18
22. MD Community Resiliency Grants: address the impacts of climate-related hazards, such as nuisance flooding, storm events and sea level rise, through the Community Resiliency Grants Program (Resilience Grants). projects that take a holistic, watershed-scale planning approach to address both water quantity and quality.	Unknown	Cleaner, safer water in the Bay watershed through restored streams and floodplains, enhanced riparian buffers and forests, improved wetland ecosystems, and comprehensive stormwater management.			

H. Other Environmental Benefit Programs

23. Maryland Freedom Fleet Voucher Program	Purchase electric vehicles	New and retrofitted alt. fuel vehicles	up to \$40,000 per vehicle	May-18
24. Parking Lot Solar PV Canopy with EV Charger Grant Program/MD Energy Admin.	Electric vehicle charger	Parking Lot Solar PV Canopies with EV Chargers over parking lots. MEA will provide up to \$300 per kW (DC) of canopy mounted solar PV per project, with a maximum cap of \$150,000 per project.	\$150,000	Feb-18
25. Commercial Clean Energy Grant Program/MD Energy Admin.	solar and lighting projects	The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) offers grants for mid-sized photovoltaic (PV) systems, solar water heating systems (SWH) and Geothermal Heating & Cooling (GHC) . Funding on first-come, first-serve basis and is subject to change based on funding availability.	Rebate of \$30 - \$60 per kW	

I. Fire Apparatus and Fire Services

26. Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program/USDA	Loans for fire apparatus, old city hall	Community Center; infrastructure; town halls; police vehicles, fire apparatus, educational services, child care. Priority: pop. 5,500 or less, income less than 80% of non-metro med household income.	65% for grants	Open
27. Assistance to FF /FEMA	Fire Vehicles		unknown	Unknown
28. Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants /FEMA	Recruitment and Retention Program	recruitment and hiring	\$100k to \$1 m +	?

29. Port Security Grant/FEMA	Fire Rescue Boat	High speed, quick response boats critical for responding to waterways, especially areas around airports – Available 24/7 patrols and response, and equipped for all life safety operations including fire suppression, evacuations, rescue of victims, dewatering, mass decontamination, swift transport of first responders to a waterborne or waterfront incident, and removal of victims from a vessel in distress	substantial	min 25%	19-Jun
30. Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Committee/Maryland State Firemen's Assoc.	Fire equipment, incl. partial cost of ladder truck	The MSFA allocates \$500k per fiscal year for grant awards. Equipment grants shall not exceed 70% of the total purchase price of the equipment	\$500,000 max	30% plus	Open thru July 9
31. MD Waterway Improvement Fund-BIG/DNR	Vessels for Marine FF	Grant		50%	
J. Police Services					

- Communication from Matt Pluta -

Grant Opportunities Involving the City of Cambridge, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, and Other Partners

What follows are some grant opportunities that would be available throughout the City of Cambridge. In order to be competitive and successful in being awarded any of the grants, we must show funders that there is collaboration with the City, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, and other groups within the city that are willing and able to undertake them. Midshore Riverkeepers has reached out to some churches and community groups during this past year but would need the support of the Mayor and Commissioners to bring along city services and/or matching funds as well as invite churches, civic associations, and other groups as partners in specific grant requests.

Grant Opportunities (1):

- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program**
 - \$30k for design project, \$75k for implementation projects
 - Deadline: March 2018

- **Chesapeake Bay Trust - Outreach and Restoration Grant**
 - \$50k for implementation projects, \$75k for outreach + implementation projects
 - Deadline: September 2017

Eligible Projects Under These Grant Opportunities:

Project 1: A program to restore underutilized parks and vacant lots through the City

- Address a number of city-owned vacant lots and underutilized “pocket parks” by converting them to community gardens, natural playgrounds, tree parks, etc.
- Funding obtained through this grant will be supported by in-kind match from the City (explained below) and will be used to support a community organizer and program leader, purchasing materials for the lots/parks including plants, trees, supplies for raised garden beds (lumber and soil), and [natural playground](#) materials.

City's Involvement (Potential Match):

- *Commissioners:* Engage their community and/or a church in their community.
- *City Staff:* Develop and engage in any necessary property agreements for the vacant lots and parks.
- *Public Works Staff:* Clearing the vacant lots/parks of debris, removing and disposing of material, and maintenance activities (such as mowing lawns, trimming trees, etc) if these tasks cannot be supported by local community members.

Partners: Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (potential Project Lead/Community Organizer), Master Gardeners, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth, local faith groups, places of worship, and neighborhood groups.

Project 2: A City-wide Tree Canopy Improvement and Management Program

- Funding obtained through this grant will be supported by in-kind and cash match from the City (explained below) for Dept. of Public Works to maintain the existing tree canopy while working to increase the overall tree coverage over time. This would be a City-lead project.

City's Involvement (Potential Match):

- *City Commissioners:* Identify streets and neighborhoods that lack tree coverage, and engage their community in volunteer tree planting activities. Identify community leaders that would be a part of a Tree Advisory Board.
- *City Staff:* Utilize and keep updated the City of Cambridge's Tree Inventory that was created in 2014 by Washington College. A Tree Advisory Board could help with this task
- *Public Works Staff:* The in-kind match generated from the staff through work that they already do such as trimming, watering mulching and maintaining City trees could be leveraged to purchase more equipment (water bags, mulch, etc.) and more trees. If the City could commit to purchasing 20 trees a year to replace any dead and hazardous trees, then that cash match could be leveraged to purchase additional 10-20 trees to plant in new locations. This would ultimately result in a program where the existing tree canopy is being maintained on a yearly basis, and the overall tree coverage in the City is steadily increasing over time.

Partners: Cambridge Main Street (identify locations for new trees and help organize volunteer plantings), Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (help find volunteers for plantings days and manage those days), Dorchester Citizens of Planned Growth.

Project 3: Stormwater Management Upgrades at the intersection of Academy Street and Market Street

- Funding obtained through this grant will go towards updating the two medians to attractive and functioning bioretention facilities that will capture and filter stormwater.
- Implement a stormwater practice, along with tree plantings, in the right-of-way along Market Street to capture, store and filter stormwater runoff coming from Market Square and surrounding parking lots.

City's Involvement (Potential Match): This would be a City-lead project and serve as an extension of the improvements made to Maryland Ave.

- The City engineers could design the bioretention areas. Their time and resources could be used as match that is then leveraged to obtain implementation funding through this grant.

Partners: Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (technical guidance), Cambridge Main Street (plant and maintain bioretention areas).

Project 4: Install Storm Drain Inlet Filters throughout the City at Priority Sites

- Funding obtained through this grant will go towards the purchasing of storm drain filters that are installed below the curbed inlet drains. These filters are designed to capture and filter debris and pollutants that wash off our streets.
- Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy could use their prior experience with this practice and lead the project, in partnership with the City of Cambridge.

City's Involvement (Potential Match):

- *City Commissioners:* identify priority areas throughout the City where debris and pollutants get flushed down the storm drains.
- *Public Works Staff:* A simple retro-fit to a street sweeper will allow DPW staff to vacuum out the filters twice a year – once in the spring and once before the winter.

Partners: Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (has experience with this practice), Cambridge Main Street

Grant Opportunities (2):

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Technical Service Provider Grants**
 - \$50K for technical assistance under two categories: Urban Stormwater, and Community Engagement
 - Deadline: Currently delayed, expected to open Summer 2017
 - Note: In order to be eligible for this funding the City needs to partner with an approved Technical Service Provider (TSP). Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy is an approved TSP with the granting agency.

Eligible Projects Under These Grant Opportunities:

Project 1 – Stormwater: Obtain funding for the design of the stormwater management upgrades at the intersection of Academy St. and Market St (see above for details).

Project 2 – Community Engagement: Develop a program to restore underutilized parks and vacant lots throughout the City (same as above, although this funding can only go towards the development of the program. Additional funds will be needed to carry out the improvement work)