

# Memorandum

**Date:** 07/13/2007  
**To:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council members  
**From:** Brent Trout, City Administrator  
**Re:** Vision Iowa Application Resolution of Support

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## Review:

The Mason City Chamber of Commerce is leading an effort to secure a Vision Iowa grant of \$9 million from the State of Iowa. The application consists of a variety of projects that you have seen listed in various materials from the Vision Iowa Application Committee. The projects listed in application that relate to the City of Mason City are:

1. Parking Structure in downtown for the Park Inn (\$1.8 million)
2. Federal Avenue Plaza Streetscape Renovation (\$1.6 million)
3. Mason City Library (\$9.21 million)
4. Performing Arts Pavilion (\$995,000)
5. Willow Creek Trails/Greenway development (\$1.0 million)

The projects are not funded completely with City of Mason City funds each project has a different funding stream. If the City of Mason City were successful in receiving the grant, each of these projects would have their own time frame for completion. The breakout of the funding streams for each of the projects is listed on the attached sheet for your review. The following description of the project and time frames for completion are listed for your information.

## Parking Structure for the Park Inn

The plan calls for consideration of two courses of action for a decision at a later date. The first option would construct a parking structure on property downtown in the vicinity of the Park Inn. The second option is the demolition of a couple of buildings south of the Park Inn building as an at grade parking lot. The construction of either of these projects would only be initiated by City Council approval. The project would be considered when the Park Inn is nearing completion in order to ensure that construction is not initiated too early in the completion of the renovation. I would anticipate that construction of the parking structure would occur in 2010 depending on progress in the Park Inn structure.

### Federal Avenue Plaza Streetscape Renovation

The plan calls for renovations of the streetscaping along Federal Avenue. The project would be considered after the Inflow and Infiltration study is completed on the downtown area. The project would be combined with work identified for underground repair to ensure that the project is done in manner that is cost effective. I project that it will be two years before a streetscape project can be completed by the time the study is complete, designs are completed and construction is completed.

### Mason City Library

The Council has approved the resolution required to put the question regarding the Library Bond to a vote on November 6, 2007.

### Performing Arts Pavilion

The City is not involved in the funding of the Pavilion at this time. The Vision Iowa money and matching funds from the Pavilion fund raising will pay for this project. The project timetable will be dependent on the fund raising success.

### Willow Creek Trails Project

The bike trail that runs through downtown needs improvement and creation in some areas. The money will be used for increased connectivity and green transportation corridors for downtown businesses. Cerro Gordo County has expressed an interest in supporting this project. If they do support the trails then the City's portion will decrease accordingly. The time frame is not known on this project.

### **Council Action Requested:**

The City Council is asked to approve the resolution of support for the Vision Iowa Application. The resolution states support for the projects in the application and it states that the City of Mason City is committed to funding three of the projects. The library is covered separately by the placement of the issue on the ballot. The Pavilion is not covered by the resolution regarding funding because no City dollars are considered part of the project.

I recommend and respectfully request City Council approval of the Resolution of Support for the Vision Iowa Application.



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Brent Trout, City Administrator

CC: Tom Meyer, City Attorney  
Robin Anderson, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce

**DRAFT—Vision Iowa Application  
FINANCIAL SCENARIO**

	<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>
<b>Park Inn/CNB Renovation</b>	\$ 18,000,000
Vision Iowa	7,500,000
Federal	5,000,000
Other	5,500,000
<b>Parking to serve PIH/Downtown</b> (property acquisition, business relocation, demolition, construction)	1,800,000
City--CIP	1,800,000
<b>Federal Plaza Renovation</b>	1,600,000
City Bond (TIF)	1,600,000
<b>MC Public Library</b>	9,210,000
Private	560,000
Bond Issue	7,650,000
Vision Iowa	1,000,000
<b>Stockman House/FLW Interpretive Center</b>	573,000
Other	323,000
Vision Iowa	250,000
<b>East Park Band Shell</b>	995,000
Other	745,000
Vision Iowa	250,000
<b>Willow Creek Trails/Greenway Development</b>	1,000,000
City/County/Park Board	1,000,000
<b>Total Project Cost (Phase 1):</b>	<b>33,178,000</b>
City:	12,050,000
Vision Iowa:	9,000,000
Private/Other:	7,128,000
Federal:	5,000,000

RESOLUTION NO. 07 –

APPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE 2007 “MASON CITY...A  
COMMUNITY ON THE MARCH” VISION IOWA APPLICATION  
FOR ATTRACTIONS IN THE CITY OF MASON CITY, CERRO  
GORDO COUNTY, IOWA

WHEREAS, The Vision Iowa program provides financial incentives to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa;

WHEREAS, The City of Mason City is a sub-recipient in the application being prepared by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Foundation;

WHEREAS, The projects involved in the “Mason City...a community on the march” application are as follows: Park Inn Hotel/City National Bank, Mason City Public Library, Performing Arts Pavilion, Historic Architecture Interpretive Center, Federal Avenue Streetscape, and Recreational Trails;

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the City Council of the City of Mason City that the projects in the application are of local, regional, statewide, national, and international significance;

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the City Council of the City of Mason City that Vision Iowa funds are an essential tool to help Mason City preserve our unique architectural heritage, attract visitors, retain residents, and contribute to the overall quality of life;

WHEREAS, Mason City is an Iowa Great Place, a Main Street Iowa community, and the project area has been designated an Iowa Cultural & Entertainment District demonstrating community “readiness”;

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Mason City deems the projects for the Parking Structure for the Park Inn, Federal Avenue Plaza Renovation, and Recreational Trails, worthy of our financial support. The City is committed to securing funds to pay for the listed improvements upon receipt of the Vision Iowa grant funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mason City, Iowa:

That the City Council of the City of Mason City fully supports the “Mason City...a community on the march” Vision Iowa application and all efforts hereafter to develop said projects, be it also resolved;

That the City Council of Mason City deems the projects for the Parking Structure for the Park Inn, Federal Avenue Plaza Renovation, and Recreational Trails, worthy of our financial support. The City of Mason City is therefore committed to securing funds up to the amount of \$4.4 million to pay for the listed improvements upon the receipt of the Vision Iowa grant funds to our community.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of July, 2007.

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Roger Bang, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brent Trout, City Clerk