



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Council Session

Item G23

#2011-248 - Approving Application for 2011 Transportation Enhancement Program Grant for the Mormon Island Trail

Staff Contact: John Collins, Public Works Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Scott Griepenstroh, Project Manager

Meeting: September 13, 2011

Subject: Approving Application for 2011 Transportation Enhancement Program Grant for the Mormon Island Trail

Item #'s: G-23

Presenter(s): John Collins, Public Works Director
Scott Griepenstroh, Project Manager

Background

All agreements must be approved by the City Council.

The Federal-aid Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program provides funding to construct and restore transportation infrastructure that are not eligible to be funded through other programs. TE activities offer funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience. Project types eligible for this funding are hike/bike trails, historic preservation, and scenic or historic byways. Currently approved projects can receive up to 80% Federal funding.

The final application for the TE Program Grant requires approval and support of the City of Grand Island through execution from the Mayor as authorized by the City Council.

Discussion

It is the intention of the Public Works Department, the Park and Recreation Department and Community Development to construct a hike/bike trail from the Riverway Trail along South Locust south across two channels of the Platte River and west into Mormon Island State Park. The Grand Island Recreational Trails brochure shows this trail as planned for future construction.

Total construction and engineering costs are estimated to be \$1,726,028. The Federal match (80%) will be \$1,380,822 and the City share (20%) will be \$345,206. This trail project is scheduled to for construction 2015 and 2016.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

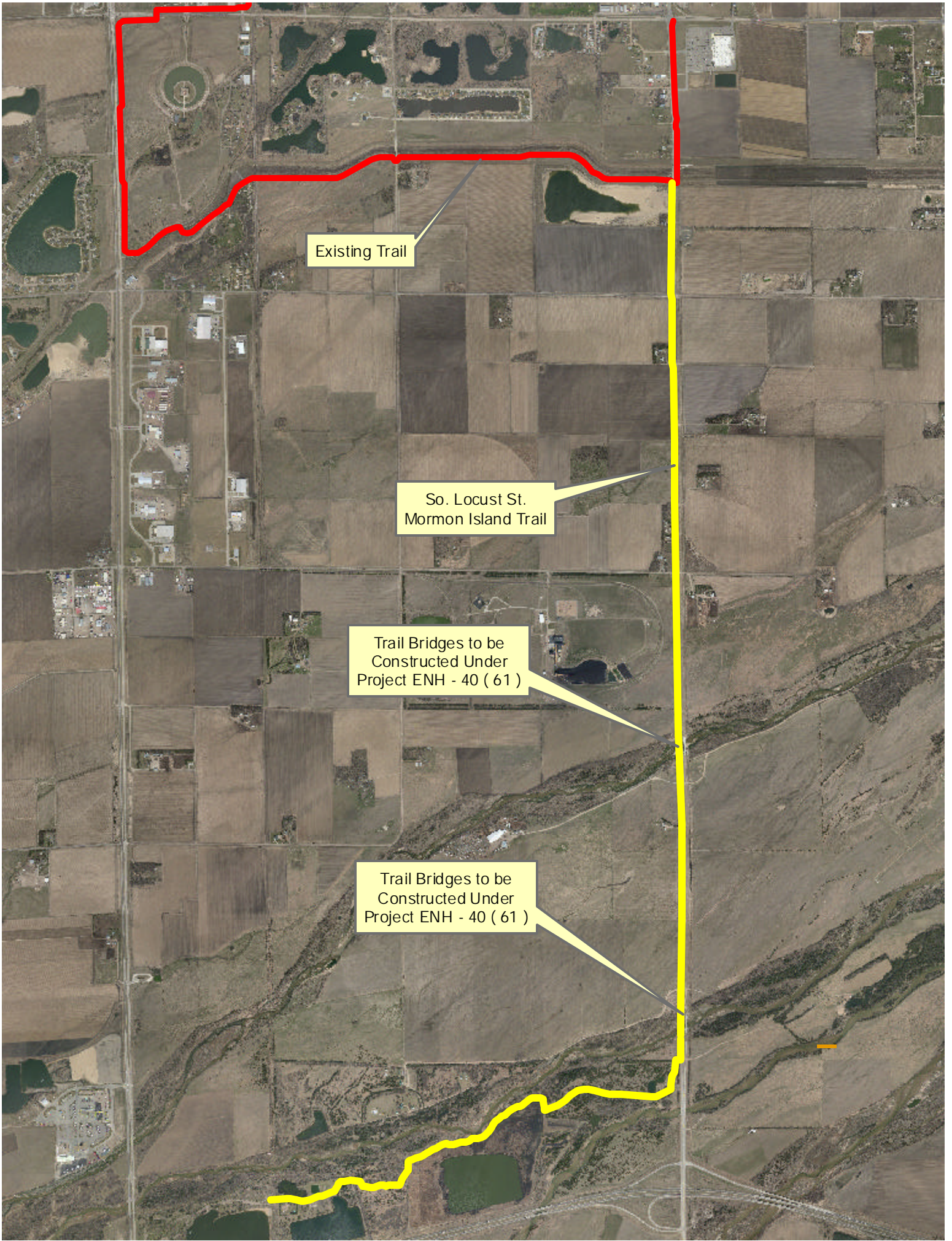
1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the resolution authorizing staff to apply for the grant.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the resolution authorizing Public Works Department staff to apply for the trail grant.



Existing Trail

So. Locust St.
Mormon Island Trail

Trail Bridges to be
Constructed Under
Project ENH - 40 (61)

Trail Bridges to be
Constructed Under
Project ENH - 40 (61)



FINAL

Transportation Enhancement Program Application Form Instructions

The following pages provide instructions for filling out the Final Transportation Enhancement Application Form. The Final Application is attached to these instructions and is intended to be completed **after** the Project Coordinator assigned to your project has conducted a site visit. It includes additional sections 10-13 not found on the draft application.

Please answer all questions directly on the form within the space provided, if possible. Attach any additional information you believe will more fully explain and support your proposed project or activity. However, attachments are limited to a total of 10 pages including the required attachments (maps, budgets and resolution) listed on Page 5. Letters of support (described in Item 13) and the Preliminary Environmental Checklist (described in Item 14) will not be included in the 10-page limit.

Additional information and assistance is available by contacting the Program Consultant, Sinclair Hille Architects, at dmckinstry@sinclairhille.com or (402)476-7331. Forms may be downloaded from www.transportation.nebraska.gov/trans-enhance/apply.htm.

- 1. Local Public Agency:** Provide information regarding the Local Public Agency (LPA) that will own and maintain the project. Attach a resolution (sample included) from the LPA showing support of the proposed project. A resolution must be submitted as a requirement for funding.
- 2. Contact Person:** Provide the name, address, daytime telephone number, and e-mail address of the person who is the main point of contact for this project.
- 3. Signature, Contact Person:** This is the person identified in Item 2 who will be responsible for the management and implementation of your proposed project.
- 4. Signature, Local Public Agency:** This is the mayor, chairperson or other head of the government agency listed in Item 1.
- 5. Project Type:** Check the box indicating your project category as shown below.

Trails

- Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- Safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including conversion and use as pedestrian / bicycle trails)

Historic Preservation

- Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities)
- Archeological planning and research

Scenic or Historic Byways

- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs (including tourist and welcome center facilities)
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

6. Project Name: Provide a name for the project.

7. Project Description / Location: Provide a detailed description of the proposed scope of work for this project. Include information on the specific items of work to be performed with the funds requested and the location of the project. For trail projects, describe the length, width, surface type, and beginning and ending points. For building projects, describe construction (existing vs. new), dimensions, purpose and need, etc. Explain how your project relates to surface transportation according to the Application Guidelines booklet.

Attach an 8 ½" x 11" map showing the project location. An aerial map that is clearly labeled with a north arrow, street names, beginning and ending points, as well as points of interest is preferred. For help on how to obtain an aerial image, contact the Program Consultant.

8. Project Cost: Provide the total cost of the project and the amount of federal funding you are requesting (up to 80% of total cost). Attach an itemized budget showing construction items, estimated unit costs, and estimated quantities. Preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction inspection/testing, and Responsible Charge expenses are also eligible expenses. Please follow the sample budget provided in the Application Guidelines booklet. A list of non-participating items is available from the Program Consultant. The maximum amount of federal funding per project is recommended not to exceed \$1,000,000. (i.e. total project cost of \$1,250,000 = 80% federal (\$1,000,000) + 20% local (\$250,000).

Identify the percentage and source of matching local funds (minimum 20% cash match required).

9. Responsible Charge: Projects are required to have a Responsible Charge (RC) Person identified. This is a full-time public employee who will be in responsible charge of the project and have decision making authority in regards to the project. The RC must be qualified by NDOR. Please list who you have identified as your RC and what Local Public Agency they are with. Include correspondence that indicates the RC is aware of this potential project and is willing to assist with it, if funded. *Please note: RC's do not actually need to be involved directly with the project until after funding award.*

10. Previous Transportation Enhancement Projects

Check the box indicating whether you have received transportation enhancement funding in the past. If the answer is yes, please list the names and federal funding amounts received for each project.

11. Transportation / Community Plans

Please identify if this project is part of an official planning document.

12. Public Benefits

Describe how this project serves a public use and any potential economic and social benefits for the community or region. These may be benefits to health, economic development, or tourism. Also, please describe aesthetic, functional and safety impacts, as well as potential improvements to the quality of life.

13. Project Support

Provide the names of the LPA(s) who are in support of this project, as well as a resolution or meeting minutes from the LPA listed in Item #1. Also, please state the current level of support from the general public, other groups and organizations. Attach documentation from them affirming this support.

14. Preliminary Environmental Checklist

Impacts of projects can be both beneficial and adverse. Please complete the Preliminary Environmental Checklist and provide related remarks to the best of your ability. If your project is selected you will be responsible to hire a consultant to obtain necessary environmental clearances and permits.

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL – Send one completed Final Application via mail or email to:

Deana McKinstry
Sinclair Hille Architects
700 Q Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
dmckinstry@sinclairhille.com

State of Nebraska
Department of Roads

Transportation Enhancement Improvement Request (FINAL)

1.	LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY NAME: City of Grand Island	TYPE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY <i>(Check One)</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> NRD <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
2.	CONTACT PERSON: Scott Griepenstroh	FAX NUMBER: 308-385-5488	
	MAILING ADDRESS: <i>(Street)</i> PO Box 1968	CITY: Grand Island	STATE: NE ZIP: 68802
	DAYTIME PHONE: 308-385-5444 x265	E-MAIL: scottg@grand-island.com	
3.	CONTACT PERSON: <i>(Print Name & Title)</i> Scott Griepenstroh	SIGNATURE	DATE:
4.	LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY: <i>(Print Name & Title)</i> Mayor Jay Vavricek	SIGNATURE	DATE:
5.	PROJECT TYPE: <i>(Select One Category)</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic or Historic Byways		
6.	PROJECT NAME: Mormon Island Trail		
7.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION: <i>(Include detailed project description and location, work to be performed, purpose and need of project; attach map)</i> <p>The proposed trail project will construct a 26,700' (5.05 mile) 10' wide concrete transportation route for bicyclists and pedestrians through the scenic Platte River valley south of Grand Island. This project will begin at the Riverway Trail along south Locust Street, extend south 3.26 miles while crossing two channels of the Platte River, then west 1.79 miles, and end on a paved roadway surface in Mormon Island State Park near the west lake.</p> <p>The portion along South Locust will be constructed in right-of-way acquired as part of the multi-year South Locust expansion project in anticipation of the public's desire for a south transportation route to significant recreational and camping locations. During the project, substructures for bridges constructed over the Platte River channels in 2001 were extended to accommodate girders and decking for trail bridges. Bridge design was completed and Project ENH-40(61) has been programmed for the construction of both trail bridges. Hundreds of trees and shrubs were planted under landscaping project STPE-2235(3), further enhancing the Grand Island South Locust route into and out of the city. The segment from Mormon Island State Park to South Locust will attract national and international interest to campers, pedestrians, bicyclists and nature enthusiasts. This trail will provide public access to the Wetlands site developed by the Nebraska Department of Roads, and will offer a unique opportunity for the public to observe wildlife and waterfowl in their natural habitat, including Sandhill Cranes during migration.</p> <p>It is assumed this project would be constructed in a two phase (two year) project.</p>		
	DESCRIBE HOW YOUR PROJECT RELATES TO TRANSPORTATION (AS DESCRIBED IN APPLICATION GUIDELINES): <p>This project meets the "Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities" eligibility requirements for the Transportation Enhancement program guidelines. This segment is a planned expansion of the City of Grand Island Parks and Recreation master plan and shown as a future segment in the City Trail Brochure. This segment will reduce the risks of vehicular traffic to on-street bicyclists and provide hike/bike trail enthusiasts with a beautiful, scenic route to a destination with State Park facilities. This trail will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists desiring alternative transportation venues.</p>		

8.	TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$1,726,028	FEDERAL FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,380,822	LOCAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY: City of Grand Island	PERCENTAGE OF MATCH: <i>(Minimum 20% of total)</i> 20%
9.	NAME & ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBLE CHARGE IDENTIFIED FOR PROJECT: Scott Griepenstroh, City of Grand Island Public Works			
10.	HAVE YOU RECEIVED TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS IN THE PAST? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, PLEASE LIST ALL PROJECTS FUNDED AND TOTAL DOLLARS RECEIVED: Beltline Trail - \$310,969.74 Shoemaker Trail - \$273,250.86 Riverway Trail - \$347,907.00 State Street and Capital Avenue Connector Trail (currently under design) - \$254,832 as per agreement			
11.	IDENTIFY IF THIS PROJECT IS PART OF A OFFICIAL PLANNING DOCUMENT: This portion of the Hike & Bike Transportation Route is included in the City's Comprehensive Trail Program and is shown as a segment in the City Trail Brochure. Capital Improvement Program funding is in the City's current One and Six Year Program to provide a match for the construction of this trail.			
12.	PUBLIC BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT: <p>The Hike and Bike Trail transportation system in Grand Island is growing into a widely used recreation and transportation route. This segment has the potential to reduce vehicular traffic in this area and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from north Grand Island for services, recreation and community events.</p> <p>Hike and Bike Trail users will benefit from the expanded opportunity to exercise with the addition of this trail along this busy arterial streets. The National Survey of Recreation and the Environment reported that "Walking for pleasure" is rated as the number one recreational activity by 82% of respondents to a national survey. Increased personal care and health care savings are two identified public benefits to this project.</p> <p>Public trails have an economic benefit as well. Respondents to a 2002 Smart Growth Survey reported that "outdoor recreational opportunities are important to those buying a new home." Of the 2,000 respondents, 36% ranked jogging/bike trails as the highest ranking community amenity. (National Association of Realtors and National Association of Home Builders).</p> <p>This trail can improve quality of life in Grand Island by enhancing the valuable amenity of a community Hike/Bike Trail system. This project will contribute to the economic health of the community by enabling the City to link to popular parks and the NDOR Wetlands site. Other public benefit can be experienced through decreased vehicular traffic, which equates to less noise, energy conservation, and an increase in noise quality. In addition, pedestrians and bike traffic will have a safer transportation network that will reduce vehicle conflicts.</p>			
13.	THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY: City of Grand Island Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Community Development Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Nebraska Department of Roads Environmental Section Grand Island Track Club			

Attach the following required items:

- Budget (follow sample provided in Application Guidelines booklet)
- 8 ½ x 11 map - include aerial image, project location/alignment, north arrow, street names, beginning and ending points, other points of interest
- Resolution
- Preliminary Environmental Checklist
- Letters of Support (optional) including correspondence from your designated Responsible Charge Person (RC) that they are willing to assist with your project, if awarded funding

RESOLUTION 2011-248

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1996, by Resolution 96-188, the City of Grand Island approved and adopted the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Development Plan, which included the development of a hike/bike trail system for the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Community Development to construct a hike/bike trail from the Riverway Trail along South Locust south across two channels of the Platte River and west into Mormon Island State Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island is requesting grant funding for such project, and

WHEREAS, if granted, assistance would be provided for 80% of the project costs, for a total of \$1,380,822; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska has available a minimum of 20% for a total of \$345,206.00 of the project cost and has the financial ability to operate and maintain the completed facility in a safe and attractive manner for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island supports the construction of the hike/bike trail, and further approved and authorized an application for assistance from the Transportation Enhancement Program for the purpose of constructing such trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such application and other documentation on behalf of the City of Grand Island for such grant process.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, September 13, 2011.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form ☐ _____
September 8, 2011 ☐ City Attorney