



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, September 25, 2012**

**Council Session**

## **Item H1**

**Consideration of Letter Designating Grand Island as Recipient of  
5307 Urbanized Area Transit Dollars for Federal FY 2013 -  
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

**Staff Contact: Chad Nabity**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Chad Nabity, AICP Planning Director

**Meeting:** September 25, 2012

**Subject:** Designation of Grand Island as the Recipient of 5307 Urbanized Area Transit Dollars for Federal Fiscal Year 2013

**Item #'s:** H-1

**Presenter(s):** Chad Nabity, AICP

## **Background**

In March of 2012, Grand Island was declared an urbanized area with a population of 50440. The Urbanized Area designations change with the census of population every 10 years. The urbanized area extends beyond the City limits and included the east lakes subdivision, subdivisions in Merrick County (we are extending water there), and even the Village of Alda.

Since the middle of July, City and County employees including myself, John Collins (while he was here) and Terry Brown have been meeting with state, federal and county officials about what is needed to set up a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Nebraska officials have been helpful but they have NEVER been through the process as this is the first MPO that has been set up in Nebraska since they were created by the feds (Lincoln, Omaha, and Sioux City were all set up when all of the regional transportation planning organizations were set up). The Federal officials have some more experience but it is with other cities that are in the same position we are in and those that were formed 10 years ago. The County Officials including, Steve Riehle and Pam Lancaster, have been at the table because the designation of an MPO will impact money received by the County for both highways and transit.

The group has met three times in the past 60 days. A lot of information about what we need to do and the deadlines has been compiled and will be presented to Council. The MPO must be formed and recognized by the Governor by March 26, 2013 so there is some time to work out the details, city staff will update Council periodically during the process of forming the MPO.

## **Discussion**

The MPO will deal with both Federal Highway and Federal Transit Dollars. Grand Island has been receiving Federal Highway dollars for years but all of the Transit dollars that have been spent in Grand Island have been received by Hall County. This has been the case since sometime in the mid 1970's when the Handy Bus program was created.

One item that would be prudent to handle immediately is the designation of Grand Island as a recipient of Federal Transit Dollars (5307 funds). The item on the agenda for this meeting is asking Council to Authorize the Mayor to sign and send the attached letter to the Governor. The letter to the Governor asks him to designate the City of Grand Island as the recipient of 5307 funds that will be made available in the 2013 and future budget years. These dollars are an 80/20 match and at this point there is no money in the City of Grand Island's Budget to match these funds.

At this time the allocation to the State of Nebraska for 5307 funds has not been determined so we are unsure about how much money will be available to Grand Island. We expect to find out how much funding is available after the state receives their notice of allocation from the Federal Government in late 2012 early 2013.

Since we are a newly formed/forming MPO the request to be designated as a recipient of 5307 prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal year on October 1, 2012 is not necessary, it will however be necessary next year and there is no harm in getting our ducks in a row and making the request at this time. The federal transit administration people that have been working with the group formulating the MPO are recommending that the request to be the designated recipient reach the Governor prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal year for 2013.

## **Alternatives**

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

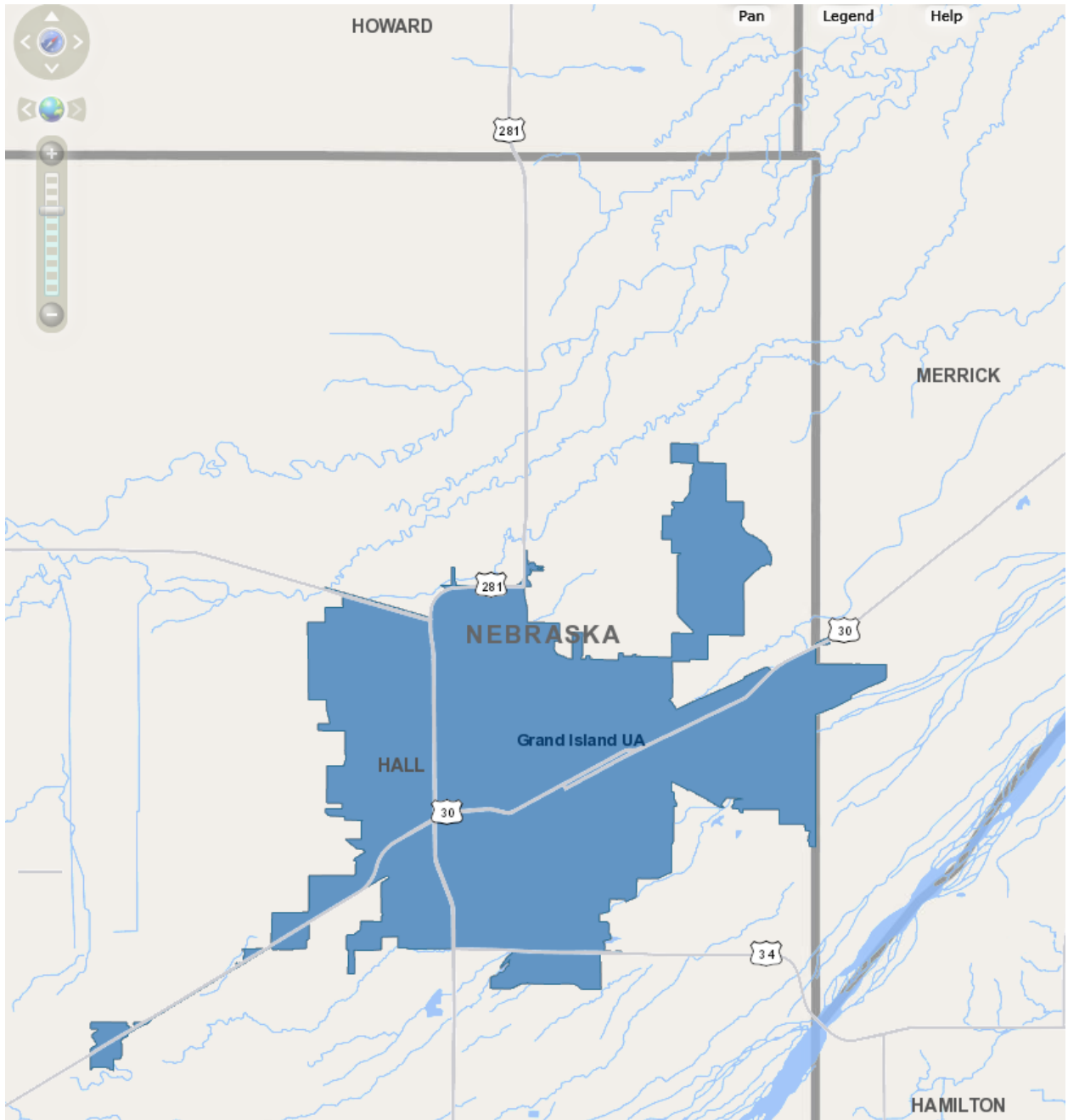
1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign and send a letter to the Governor of the State of Nebraska requesting that the City of Grand Island be designated as the recipient of any 5307 Urbanized Area Transit Funds allocated to the Grand Island Urbanized Area.

## **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the attached resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign and send a letter to the Governor of the State of Nebraska requesting that the City of Grand Island be designated at the recipient of any 5307 Urbanized Area Transit Funds allocated to the Grand Island Urbanized Area.



Map of the 2010 Urbanized Area: City of Grand Island, Nebraska  
Source: US Census Website



*Working Together for a  
Better Tomorrow. Today.*

September 25, 2012

Governor Dave Heineman  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

**RE: Designation of Recipient for Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Funds-Grand Island NE  
Urbanized Area**

Dear Governor Heineman:

As Mayor of Grand Island I have been authorized by the Grand Island City Council to submit a request asking you to designate the City of Grand Island as the recipient of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Funds available to the Grand Island Urbanized area for federal fiscal year 2013 and future years.

Please consider our request and forward your designation to the Federal Transit Administration, Region VII offices in Kansas City, Mo., and the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Vavricek, Mayor  
City Of Grand Island, Nebraska

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