

Critical Corridors Funding Recommendations Spring 2023

The Community & Economic Development (CED) department launched the Critical Corridors programs in the fall of 2022 as part of the first year of Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy funding availability. In this second year of the programs, Critical Corridors have been split into a spring and a fall round of solicitations. The spring solicitations were for two programs, Pre-Development Planning and Commercial Corridor Initiative, and the fall solicitation will be for one program, Development & Infrastructure.

In the spring Critical Corridors solicitations, eleven (11) eligible applications for funding assistance were received totaling \$394,000 in requests. A team of reviewers evaluated applications and made funding recommendations. Reviewers included representatives from Community & Economic Development, Public Works & Multi-Modal Planning, Workforce Solutions, and external reviewers from the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers and Metropolitan Council.

Recommendations through this solicitation comprise a total of \$161,900 in Critical Corridors awards to five (5) projects. The remaining ~\$1.5 million in Critical Corridors funding will be allocated through the fall 2023 solicitation.

Program	Funding Recommendations
Pre-Development Planning	\$100,000
Commercial Corridor Initiative	\$61,900
Critical Corridors Total	\$161,900

Pre-Development Planning

Rice Street Gardens Concept Plan

Applicant: Rondo Community Land Trust

Location: Maplewood

Funding Recommendation: \$50,000

Rondo Community Land Trust, in partnership with Rice Street Gardens (nonprofit) and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, will conduct a redevelopment feasibility study and create a concept plan for a 13-acre site into affordable housing and community gardens.

Larpenteur-Snelling Corridor Study

Applicant: City of Falcon Heights

Location: Falcon Heights

Funding Recommendation: \$50,000

The City of Falcon Heights will study the Larpenteur Avenue West and Snelling Avenue corridors to identify opportunities for redevelopment to meet projected housing and business needs. The study will look at possible zoning changes along the corridor to encourage infill development and redevelopment with the goal of evolving the area into a higher density, extended “city center” area.

Commercial Corridor Initiative

Creating a Shared Sense of Place for the County Road E Corridor

Applicant: City of White Bear Lake

Location: Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake

Funding Recommendation: \$30,000

The Cities of Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake will engage a consultant to establish a brand identify, marketing, and placemaking strategy for the County Road E Corridor with the intent of attracting residents and visitors to local businesses. This project will build upon the community engagement and planning efforts of the County Road E Corridor Action Plan process which took place in Fall 2022.

Filipino Village / Kusina Building Improvements

Applicant: City of Mounds View

Location: Mounds View

Funding Recommendation: \$10,000

This grant will support building façade improvements for a building that houses two local businesses, Filipino Village (a grocery store) and Kusina (a fast casual restaurant specializing in Filipino cuisine).

A Design Theme for Mounds View Boulevard

Applicant: City of Mounds View

Location: Mounds View

Funding Recommendation: \$21,900

The City of Mounds View will update a 1998 corridor plan for Mounds View Boulevard, compiling all studies undertaken since then in order to prioritize infrastructure projects. The updated plan will lay out placemaking strategies and investments to support businesses and pedestrians along the corridor.