

DDA Board to decide how to spend extra dollars

Special meeting set for Sept. 9

By Pam Fleming • STAFF WRITER • August 26, 2010

The city of Northville was lucky enough to receive a \$685,880 federal **transportation** grant for its downtown sidewalk improvement program.

Now, city leaders have the much-envied task of trying to decide how to spend extra money since \$2 million worth of **bonds** have been sold for the project.

The city issued \$2 million in Build America Bonds in January to pay for the streetscape project. The DDA's tax increment financing revenue will be used to pay the debt **service** on the bonds.

But it wasn't until June that the DDA staff was notified that the city was receiving the grant to be administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

In other words, official notification of the grant award didn't take place until after the bonds were sold. This means that because the enhancement grant is given as a reimbursement, the city will be able to use that **money** for new projects.

The city's Executive Committee had its monthly meeting on Aug. 9. The DDA staff discussed a list of potential projects for the downtown. Projects recommended could all be addressed by the current subcontractors on the job.

PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

Projects under consideration include improving the alley ways on Center Street next to Rebecca's restaurant and Orin Jewelers ; secondary intersection brick work; **landscaping** on the Hutton/Dunlap streets curve and Mary Alexander Court; downtown trees; additional induction lighting; railing on Center Street; mill and resurface Center Street from Cady to Dunlap streets; Mary Alexander Court resurfacing; and Marquis Parking Lot site improvements.

Total cost for these projects would be \$601,560, including an estimated 8 percent for design fees.

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What's Next

Members of the Downtown Development Authority Board will have a special meeting on the evening of Sept. 9 to discuss additional projects under consideration.

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