Agenda Item 8. Grant Modification Requests - UPDATED

A. #20-154 – Heartland Bike Share– B-cycle to ORBT: Connecting Bike Share to Bus Rapid Transit (Pages 8-2 and 8-3)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from bike stations to bikes. Heartland Bike is partnering with Omaha METRO on this grant. Omaha METRO was recently notified the federal funding they had committed to this project can be used for the stations but not the bikes. That information was not available when the grant application was written. Grant objectives will be met with NET funding bikes and Omaha METRO will funding the stations.

Staff recommends approving the modification.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

B. #18-176-2 Improving Water quality and Fish Health in the Platte River and Tributaries (Pages 8-4 and 8-5)

The sponsor is requesting a budget modification to shift funds from Supplies and Travel to Salaries. The grant project is a 3 year project and NET awarded reduced funding over 2 years. COVID restrictions has delayed project work and reduced travel. Partnering with NDEQ (NDEE) reduced the need for NET funds for supplies. All grant objectives will be met with the budget modifications.

Staff recommends approving the modification.

Possible Action: a motion to approve, modify and approve or deny the modification request.

Board Authority:
Title 137, chapter 9, Section 010. If a grantee wished to modify a project other than one covered by section 006 above, the grantee must submit a proposed amendment to the grant agreement including a revised line-item budget. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the Executive Director at least 30 days prior to the requested changes with an explanation of need. The Executive Director will then either approve or deny the proposal and inform the grantee in writing of his or her decision.

Nebraska Statute 81-15-175 (4). The board may commit funds to multiyear projects, subject to available funds and appropriations. No commitment shall exceed three years without formal action by the board to renew the grant contract. Multiyear commitments may be exempt from the rating process except for the initial application and requests to renew the commitment.
July 14, 2020

Benny Foltz Executive
Director Heartland Bike Share
1144 N 11th Street, Suite B Omaha, NE

Reference: NET 20-154 – B-cycle to ORBT: Connecting Bike Share to Bus Rapid Transit

Dear Benny,

We are in receipt of your July 7, 2020 letter requesting budget modifications. We understand the major grant partner, Omaha METRO, recently found out their funding could be used for any portion of the bike share project except bikes. All grant objectives will be met. The only change being which funding will cover stations and bikes. Modifications are outlined on the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>NET</th>
<th>Modification</th>
<th>Modified Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Prep and Equipment</td>
<td>$22,321.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$22,321.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Costs</td>
<td>$37,125.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$37,125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stations</td>
<td>$190,000.00</td>
<td>-$190,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCycles</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$190,000.00</td>
<td>$190,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>$289,446.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$289,446.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We will take your request to the NET Board at the August 4, 2020 meeting. You will be notified following that meeting of the Board’s decision.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
07-July-2020

The Nebraska Environmental Trust  
700 S 16th Street - PO Box 94913  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913  
Tel: (402) 471-5409  
Fax: (402) 471-8233

Re: 20-154 - B-cycle to ORBT: Connecting Bike Share to Bus Rapid Transit

Dear NET Board of Directors:

Thank you for awarding Heartland Bike Share’s grant for 2020. We appreciate the opportunity to further provide more bike share access to the general public along the Omaha Rapid Bus Transit (ORBT) stops. These bike share stations are a key piece in supporting commuter use of the system. Recreation use continues, but Heartland Bike Share’s transportation data shows that ebikes have increased membership and commuter trips. The implementation of ebikes increased trips 135.6%, and our member trips, which are the trips most likely to be commuters and year-round riders, increased by 490.7%. These ebikes, linked with the ORBT system will aid in the public’s use of the bus and bikes together to reduce traffic in the Omaha metro.

Transit Authority of the City of Omaha (Metro) recently received information in relation to the funding they are using to partner on this project. Metro had agreed to entirely fund the ebikes in this grant. They have been notified that federal FTA funding will cover all bicycle sharing transportation EXCEPT the bikes.

We are requesting a budget modification to shift NET funding from the stations to the bikes. All grant objectives will be met and the Omaha Rapid Bus Transit program will be able to complete another major piece of the transportation system.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Benny Foltz
Executive Director
Heartland Bike Share
402.350.0421
benny@heartlandbikeshare.org
July 31, 2020

Samodha Fernando
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Animal Science
Lincoln NE 68583

Reference: NET 18-176-2 Improving Water quality and Fish Health in the Platte River and Tributaries

Dear Samodha,

We are in receipt of your July 30, 2020 letter requesting budget modifications. We will take your request to the NET Board for their review and approval at the August 4, 2020 meeting. We will notify you of their decision following the meeting.

Thank you for providing this information to us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Tabor
Grant Administrator
Environmental Trust
402-471-5541

pc Mark Brohman
July 30th, 2020

Marilyn Tabor  
Nebraska Environmental Trust  
700 S. 16th Street  
P.O. Box 94913  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

Subject: Request of budget modification for grant 18-176 “Improving Water Quality and Fish Health in the Platte River and Tributaries”

Dear Marilyn;

We are requesting a budget reallocation to transfer funds totaling $25,000 from travel and $20,000 from supplies to the Salaries and Wages category ($45,000).

The reason for the overspending in the salaries and wages category is due to commitments we have for the current year (2020-2021). This is mainly due to COVID-19 hindering wet lab experiments although salaries were paid for the graduate students and technicians working on the project during the University closure. Additionally, the original grant was proposed for 3 years and only funding was provided for 2 years and currently we are on a no cost extension to complete the project.

The budget modification will not affect grant objectives as we have teamed up with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to collect water samples. As such funds budgeted for travel for sampling was minimally used and we are requesting to reallocate these funds to be used as salary. Additionally, the reallocation of funds requested from supplies are funds saved in the “supplies” category that would have been used for water sampling which was saved due to the ongoing collaboration with DEQ and funds that were allocated for purchasing a server. We have purchased dedicated nodes at the Holland Computing center to complete the analysis instead of purchasing our own server.

Therefore, this reallocation of funds from travel and supplies will not compromise any outputs from the grant and we will meet the objectives described in the grant.

If you have any questions or need additional details please contact me on Samodha@unl.edu or 402-472-0518.

Thank you for your continued support and considering this request for reallocation of funds.

Sincerely,

Samodha C Fernando  
Associate Professor  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
Animal Science  
ANSC C220k, UNL, 68583-0908  
402 472 0518