

Hometown Action Team Meeting

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Attending: Mark McFate, Warren Riley, Jeff Shaw, Shelly Riley, Karen Mixdorf, Dorothy Zmolek, Lori Baier, Trudy Koch, Larry Thomas, Denise Fletcher

Karen announced the wonderful news that the Cities of Tama and Toledo were awarded the **Safe Routes to School Grant!** The Total Project Cost is \$752,856. The DOT amount is 80% or \$602,284 and our 20% Match that we have to raise before October, 2025, is \$150,572. Most of the parents in our communities do not want their children walking or riding their bikes to school due to safety concerns. This project connects all three schools and both cities with a safe sidewalk to encourage walking and biking safely.

We should hear by the end of January on the **HSIP** (Highway Safety Improvement Program). This project installs an overhead stop light on Highway 63 and 15th Street in Tama. Total Project Cost is \$210,000 and the DOT pays 100% of the cost of the light. We are responsible for engineering fees estimated at \$30,000. Both projects total \$962,856 with our share to raise in ten months at **\$180,572 +**. The cities have had their state funding cut by 5% for the last two years and really need each of us to help to make this safe route a reality. To reach this total we need everyone sharing the facts of this good news, taking on a role and reaching out.

Our fundraising plan is three pronged:

1. **Grants** – Karen, Denise and Shelly will take on this role. We will research grants from ISU, Region 6, Trees Forever and local grants. Our first to be submitted is to the Tama County Foundation due January 15th.
2. **Local** – Businesses, Schools and Organizations – Karen has contacted Katie Mathern, the Business Manager, to arrange a presentation to the School Board. Chelsea Arends will be the high school contact person. Scott Bolen is our Middle School representative and Jon Huebner will represent the elementary for fundraising. We have also asked for a Letter of Support from the School Board to include with our Tama County Grant Application. Perhaps the school district could provide some in-kind printing work for this project.
We have developed a three-page list of local businesses. Larry Thomas will take the lead on following up with Tama business contacts. As a member of a local service group, we are asking that you inform your members of this project and pursue donations.
3. **Individuals** – Jeff Shaw has gathered the list of STC Graduates from 1960 to the present. The strategy is to reach out to relatives that still live in the community to get contact information for their adult children. Lori Baier, Trudy Koch and Jeff Shaw will head up this area and recruit others to help.

On December 30th, the chairwomen met with both mayors, city clerks, etc. They gave us permission to proceed and will get official approval from the Tama Council on January 6th and the Toledo Council on January 13th. Both cities will provide a Letter of Support for this project before January 15th. Contact will be made with Economic Development, STC Rec, and Chamber of Commerce to also get a Letter of Support. This SRTS Project will go through the City of Tama. All donations will be in the form of cash or checks written to the City of Tama and labeled SRTS. Jill Apfel will be our contact person, and she will read and approve all grants before they are submitted.

The most popular fundraising theme is **“Let’s Moove Safely Together”**. Could incorporate a Black Angus or the Butter Cow and Calf on the print material. The new brand for our group is **“Hometown Action Team”** or HATs. Our new website is hometownactionteam.tamatoledo.org. or cv.tamatoledo.org. All current information will be found at that site.

Lori will find someone to develop a brochure in the near future. Karen, Shelly and Denise will meet Monday to organize the information for a brochure or sheet with a tear off to send in with a donation.

Many creative ideas were suggested by the group including a Rube’s Burger Night, Round Up at Fareway, sell one yard of concrete, contact Jonathan Meyer for an article, etc.

- Karen will reach out to the City Clerk in Hubbard which had a successful fundraising campaign.
- Denise will contact the city of Maquoketa staff who successfully raised money for a main street renovation from alumni.
- Denise will get clarifying information about the Black Hawk Gaming Grant.
- Karen will contact Jill to fill in the necessary information from the City of Tama for the Tama Foundation Grant and ask about an electronic check from the bank.
- Mark will update the old Visioning Website.
- Jeff suggested tri-corner display boards at both city halls and school buildings.
- Mark will come up with a preshow at the Wieting to explain the SRTS Project.
- We will all reach out to past members and recruit others for this vital project.
- Our Tama County Economic Director, Katherine Ollendieck will send a Letter of Support and can help with laminating materials.
- Will meet with Julie Winter from Region 6.

This is a long-awaited safety solution for both Tama & Toledo!
Let’s Make it Happen!

Submitted by Denise Fletcher