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Contact: Dave Gobin  
Community Development Director  
City of Muscatine  
215 Sycamore Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
563-264-1550  
Dgobin @muscatineiowa.gov

#### CITY OF MUSCATINE HAS BEEN AWARDED LIFTS GRANT

MUSCATINE, IOWA, February 10, 2016 – The City of Muscatine is pleased to announce that on February 9, the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) officially awarded a \$100,000 Linking Iowa’s Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) Grant to the City.

The City announced in January that they were one of the six out of 25 total LIFTS Grant application projects that was recommended by IDOT to be funded. The City will receive, from IDOT, its award letter later this week along with a LIFTS Grant Agreement for approval by the City Council at one of its next meetings.

The LIFTS Grant is an 80/20 match grant, meaning the grant will provide \$80,000 in funding which will be paired with \$20,000 from private sources, totaling \$100,000. The funds will be used for a feasibility study to support the establishment of a multi-modal container terminal port facility on the Mississippi River in Muscatine.

The port would allow for the sending, receiving and trans-loading of intermodal container freight and smaller bulk items utilizing the river, highway, warehousing or rail.

Community Development Director Dave Gobin explained that the completion of a port in Muscatine would benefit all of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois since there are no intermodal container facilities north of St. Louis along the Mississippi River.

“Although only a few administrative items remain of the approval process, the benefits of the LIFTS grant will propel the concept of placing the City of Muscatine as the economic center of the entire region” Gobin said.

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