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## Grant money eyed for I-275

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills residents living along I-275 might have prettier views — and quieter sounds in their future.

Hills city council last week approved assigning city staff to pursue state funds to beautify and/or create noise buffers along I-275.

The Transportation Enhancement Activity program, created by Gov. John Engler in 1998, is designed to help communities beautify roadways using state funds with at least 20 percent local matching funds.

There are two deadlines for applying for the funds — December and April.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said the April deadline would be more realistic because it would give the Michigan Department of Transportation time to do a sound study first.

MDOT has said it did not want to do the study until I-275 traffic levels are back to pre-construction levels.

Barnett also acknowledged the continued fight for quieting I-275 by area residents.

"(The State of Michigan) refuse to cooperate on this particular stretch of I-275," Barnett said, citing their refusal to put up sound barrier walls on Farmington Hills' stretch of the highway as they have in other communities.

The Meadowbrook Hills subdivision was the focal point in a recent heated debate about I-275 road noise. They succeeded in getting the Michigan Department of Transportation to reduce the freeway noise by five decibels through a freeway surfacing method called "random tining." The method creates an uneven-looking road surface that results in a quieter highway.

Meadowbrook resident Larry Shoup, who suggested seeking the grants at an annual quadrant meeting Sept. 22, said council's go-ahead was music to his ears.

"Our residents thank you very much," he said after council agreed to study the issue.

## Civic from page A1

■ \$17,626, Mirage Tile & Marble, ceramic tile work. Lone bid, three were solicited.

■ \$3,430, Weiss Robert Partitions Inc., toilet partitions and accessories. Chosen from three submitted bids, four solicited.

■ \$31,760, Northwest Studios Inc., draperies. Lone submitted bid, two solicited.

■ \$6,100, Planet Neon, neon sign work. Lone submitted bid, five solicited.

■ \$19,277, Stein Industries,

concession equipment. Lone bid submitted, two solicited.

■ \$9,780, Collins Plumbing for plumbing work. Lone submitted bid, two solicited.

■ \$74,235.20, NCS Corporation, theater seating. Lone submitted bid, no others submitted.

Because of the renovations' strict timeline and because of the lack of theater seating vendors, it was recommended council accept NCS' lone seating bid. But City Manager Frank

Lauhoff recommended rejecting the lone painting bid by Calhoun Painting for \$27,000 because it was deemed too high. It will be re-bid.

Clark also said the bid was too high. "We felt it was at least 20 percent in excess of what it should be," he said.

City council will meet 4 p.m. Friday at city hall to approve additional theater bids. The public is welcome to attend.

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