In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed.

The Knoxville Downtown Streetscape Project should be given consideration as a 2014 All-Star Community! Knoxville, Iowa is located in South Central Iowa, approximately 35 miles Southeast of Des Moines. As the capital of Marion County, downtown Knoxville is home to the historic Marion County Courthouse, as well as over 100 local businesses, since 1853. The central business district is among the oldest segments of Knoxville. Within the geographic area of 19 municipal blocks, public infrastructure has aged to a point that repairs must be made. Sewers are over 100 years old. Water mains have leaked, been repaired, and leaked again. Public infrastructure improvements were necessary if the downtown district was to thrive.

Beginning in 2008, the community came together to discuss the issue of infrastructure. Determined to understand the issue and identify a proper course of action, community leaders came together with a proposition...invest in downtown or there will be no downtown! The City Council created a Streetscape Committee to coordinate communication between the public, downtown businesses and City leadership. In 2011, an item was placed on the local ballot as to whether or not a Local Option Sales & Service Tax, LOSST, should be dedicated to downtown for the Streetscape Project. Overwhelmingly, 86% of Knoxville voters approved a measure to levy a tax for the replacement of downtown. $605,000 was spent to engineer a 6-phase project that included full replacement of sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water mains, roads, sidewalks and street lighting. The project would include replacement of privately owned sewer services to ensure property owners won’t have to deal with problems in the near future. Phase I was completed in 2010 at a cost of $679,171. Phase II - Block I was completed in Fall 2013 with the remainder of Phase II currently underway for a cost of $3,087,346. Completion of the downtown square is expected in Spring 2015.

Project Funding and Execution:

Total Cost/Projected Cost of Project: $11,105,000

List where funding came from (grants, donations, city funds, etc.)

Past and current projects are 100% funded by Local Option Sales & Service Tax (local city funds)

Total time project took/projected to take for completion:
(to qualify project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013)

04/2008

Start date End date or Project is ongoing

Please use only this form for entry. All entries will be judged solely on this form.
Explain the specific role of your city in this project.
The City of Knoxville has played a critical role in the project by identifying infrastructure deficiencies and conducting public meetings/hearings to discuss the issues that were discovered. After the community approved an additional local tax levy for the projects, the Knoxville City Council issued 10-year General Obligation bonds for the current phase of the project and committed funding for the project, ensuring the project debt would be paid off in full before the sales tax sunsets in FY24.

City staff is responsible for the construction management and oversight of the project. In order to ensure effective collaboration and partnerships with the community, staff holds a bi-weekly project meeting where the project engineer, city staff, contractor, utility providers and the public are invited to attend and participate in planning the project.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
The tangible benefits are very easy to identify. Dozens of business owners will have brand new public infrastructure and utilities. Downtown pedestrians and customers will enjoy new streets and sidewalks, wayfinding signage and street lighting.

Other benefits are much more difficult to quantify. The community was proactive to identify a major problem and associate solutions, including allocation of funding. What would the cost be if the community allowed downtown infrastructure to further deteriorate? Many business owners harbor their livelihoods downtown and will continue to do so for years to come.

Another significant benefit is the community pride that has been displayed since approving a local levy to support the project. Residents should feel pride in their commitment to the downtown and the long-term benefits that today's decisions regarding infrastructure investment will show future generations regarding a community’s concern for the downtown core.

Resources
Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information. Do NOT include supplemental paper information. Only information on this form or the sites listed will be used in the judging process.


Signatures: (Must be signed to be eligible. Most members print to sign)

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
City Clerk

Return this form by Monday, April 7, 2014.

Iowa League of Cities
Attn: All-Star Community Awards
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50309
or bethanycrile@iowaleague.org

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