



Lost in the talk about [the City Council approving an extra \\$250,000 for this year's City Stages](#) (bringing the total amount to \$550,000) was [the announcement by Mayor Langford](#) that Birmingham, AL would be submitting a proposal to be one of the facilities that could be used for the 2018 or 2022 [FIFA World Cup](#).

Now, to put this in perspective, [there are 37 potential host cities \(with 45 facilities total\) across the United States](#) being asked to submit for a chance to host the soccer matches. The hope is to have the final list ready by the end of the year, allowing them to be included in the bid book, due in May 2010.

If successful, it would be the first time Birmingham sees World Cup action since the [2005 qualifying match between the U.S. and Guatemala](#) at [Legion Field](#). The U.S. is competing against several countries for the honor, including the United Kingdom, meaning that [our sister city across the pond wants in on it too](#).

Photo: Soccer ball. [thebuffafamily](#)/Flickr