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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Roll Call

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT—

Iowa Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Fund Applications

SYNOPSIS—

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has an annual program to provide funds for Traffic Safety Fund (TSF) improvements. The deadline for this year's applications is August 15, 2004. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and has developed three (3) projects for submittal: E. 14th Street and Hull Avenue Widening and Signalization; SW 9th at Bell and at Park Avenues--Traffic Signal Visibility Improvements; and 2nd Avenue and Madison Avenue Intersection Traffic Signal Upgrade.

FISCAL IMPACT—

1. E. 14th Street and Hull Avenue Widening and Signalization

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$500,000

Total Project Cost \$3,900,000

(If TSF funding is approved, additional funding sources would be considered.)

2. SW 9th Street at Park and Bell Avenues--Traffic Signal Visibility Improvements

Traffic Safety Funds Requested \$80,000

City Funds (Design/Inspection)	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$90,000

3. 2nd Avenue and Madison Avenue Intersection Traffic Signal Upgrade

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$80,000
City Funds (Construction)	\$20,000
City Funds (Design/Inspection)	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$110,000

For the E. 14th and Hull improvements, City funding would be requested through a future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) if this project is approved by the IDOT. For the other two signal projects, the City funding would come from the existing CIP, Citywide Signals, Channelization and School Crossing Protection Program, or Citywide Traffic Signal Interconnection Program.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval and authorization to submit an application to the IDOT for Traffic Safety Funds for these three projects.

BACKGROUND—

The IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-accident locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem.

Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 47 projects and approximately \$9.4 million, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2004, for the next programming cycle. Staff has reviewed the accident history at various locations, and recommends that the following projects be submitted for the next funding cycle.

1. E. 14th Street and Hull Avenue Widening and Signalization

The proposed project consists of the widening of E. 14th Street at the intersection of Hull Avenue to a 65-foot back-to-back pavement within a 90-foot right-of-way in order to provide for a north-south left-turn lane. Additional right-of-way will be required on the northwest and southwest quadrants of the intersection. This project would be incorporated into a larger corridor project that would widen E. 14th to provide a two-way left-turn lane between Ovid Avenue and Arthur Avenue. New traffic signals would be

installed at the intersection of Hull Avenue and at Grandview Avenue, and would be coordinated into the existing E. 14th Street signal system.

The current estimated project cost for this improvement is \$3.9 million. Traffic Safety Funding of \$500,000 is requested. Other IDOT and federal monies would be requested if this funding is approved.

2. SW 9th at Park and Bell Avenues - Traffic Signal Visibility Improvements

The proposed project consists of installing east-west overhead mounted traffic signals on Bell Avenue and on Park Avenue at SW 9th Street. LED signal heads and backplates would be included in all directions for greater visibility. Additional side-mounted signals would also be installed. The improved visibility is expected to reduce rear-end and right-angle collisions. Since both locations are adjacent to schools, new pedestrian signals including the “countdown timer” feature would be added. The estimated cost for this project is \$80,000, which is requested from Traffic Safety Funds. The City will have minor costs of about \$10,000 for design and inspection activities.

3. 2nd Avenue and Madison Avenue Intersection Traffic Signal Upgrade

The proposed improvement consists of upgrading the existing traffic signal installation at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Madison Avenue. The existing traffic signal poles would be removed and new foundations and poles would be installed outside the 10-foot clear zone. Overhead signals would be installed on Madison Avenue, and backplates would be installed on all overhead signals. Side-street detection would be installed on Madison Avenue in order to operate the intersection signal in a “semi-actuated” mode. The total construction cost is estimated to be \$100,000, of which the City will request \$80,000 in Traffic Safety Funding. The City will have construction costs of approximately \$20,000 and design/inspection costs of approximately \$10,000, for a total project cost of \$110,000.