



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 09/12/05
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-512
Roll Call No.:

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

SUBJECT—

Approving and Authorizing the Execution of Iowa Department of Transportation Predesign Agreement for East 14th Street (U.S. 69) from East University Avenue to East Aurora Avenue.

SYNOPSIS—

Approving a Predesign Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) for East 14th Street (U.S. 69), which includes a widening project between Sheridan Avenue and East Oak Park Avenue and an overlay project from East University Avenue to Aurora Avenue. The project provides for the installation of a continuous left-turn lane on East 14th Street within the widening limits, including a left-turning lane at the signalized intersections with Hull Avenue and with Grandview Avenue. The widening project is being done in conjunction with a separate Iowa DOT resurfacing project on East 14th Street between East University Avenue and Aurora Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT—

The project cost for the East 14th Street Widening project, not including the Iowa DOT overlay, is \$6,500,000. The City has currently committed \$600,000 to this project, which is included in the 2005-2006 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget, East 14th Street Widening – East Sheridan Avenue to East Ovid Avenue - Account 543060, Fund CP038, Organization ENG990000, Project STR223. The remainder of the funding is from a combination of Federal and State funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

The proposed East 14th Street widening project initially began as an improvement for the intersection of East 14th Street and Hull Avenue. This signalized location has been identified for a number of years on the Iowa DOT's "Top 200 Safety Improvement Candidate Locations". It was ranked as high as No. 28 on this statewide list for the 5-year period between 1994-1998, with a total of 87 crashes involving 70 injuries.

In June 2001 the Iowa DOT prepared a Project Concept Statement for this location, which also studied a larger corridor improvement along East 14th Street between East Sheridan Avenue and East Oak Park Avenue. During the same 5-year analysis time period (1994-1998), there were a total of 236 crashes involving 181 injuries within these limits.

The 2001 Iowa DOT study recommended that the intersection improvement be incorporated into a larger corridor widening improvement between Sheridan Avenue and East Oak Park Avenue. This would provide a continuous left turn lane on East 14th within these limits, which includes the traffic signalized intersections with Hull Avenue and Grandview Avenue. The total project cost for the widening is estimated to be \$6,500,000.

Of this project amount, the City currently has \$600,000 programmed in the CIP and an additional \$1,750,000 of State and Federal funds committed. Another \$750,000 has been requested from the Iowa DOT utilizing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding. The remainder of the project funding is to be provided by the Iowa DOT, but has not been identified or committed.

City staff met with the Iowa DOT to develop the proposed agreement, which will authorize the City to conduct the design and right-of-way acquisition phases of the project. The Iowa DOT will pay for the cost for this initial work from project funds. During the design phase, several alternatives for this widening will be reviewed, including symmetric and non-symmetric widening, in order to determine the most cost-effective and least disruptive method that this corridor should be improved. The project is currently estimated to start construction in 2008.

As the project design proceeds, the Iowa DOT will work to identify the additional funding sources. These funding sources, along with other project details, will be incorporated into a future Preconstruction Agreement. If additional funding does not become available from the Iowa DOT, the final scope of the project will be reduced to fit within the available funding sources.

Also included in the project agreement is the incorporation of an Iowa DOT resurfacing project on East 14th Street between East University Avenue and Aurora Avenue. The Iowa DOT will design, let, and inspect this project, which will be constructed in conjunction with the proposed Widening project. The total cost of this resurfacing project is funded 100% by the Iowa DOT and will include resurfacing East 14th Street through the widening project. The City will be responsible to repair any damaged curbs and intakes on the resurfacing segment before construction.

A number of previous Roll Calls have been approved by City Council relating to the proposed Widening project. On August 9, 2004, by Roll Call No. 04-1703, Council authorized an application to the Iowa DOT for Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$500,000, which was later approved by the Iowa DOT. On October 24, 2004, by Roll Call No. 04-2273, Council authorized an application to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for \$500,000 toward this project, which was later approved by the MPO. On August 8, 2005, by Roll Call No. 05-1885, Council authorized an application to the Iowa DOT for

Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) for \$750,000 toward this project, which is anticipated to be approved early next year.