


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-365	Meeting:	August 7, 2023
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	23-1064
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT for FY2025 TSIP funding for the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street. IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. The maximum request for funding per project is \$500,000. The deadline for this year's application is August 15, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$3,000,000 Estimated total project costs

Funding Source:

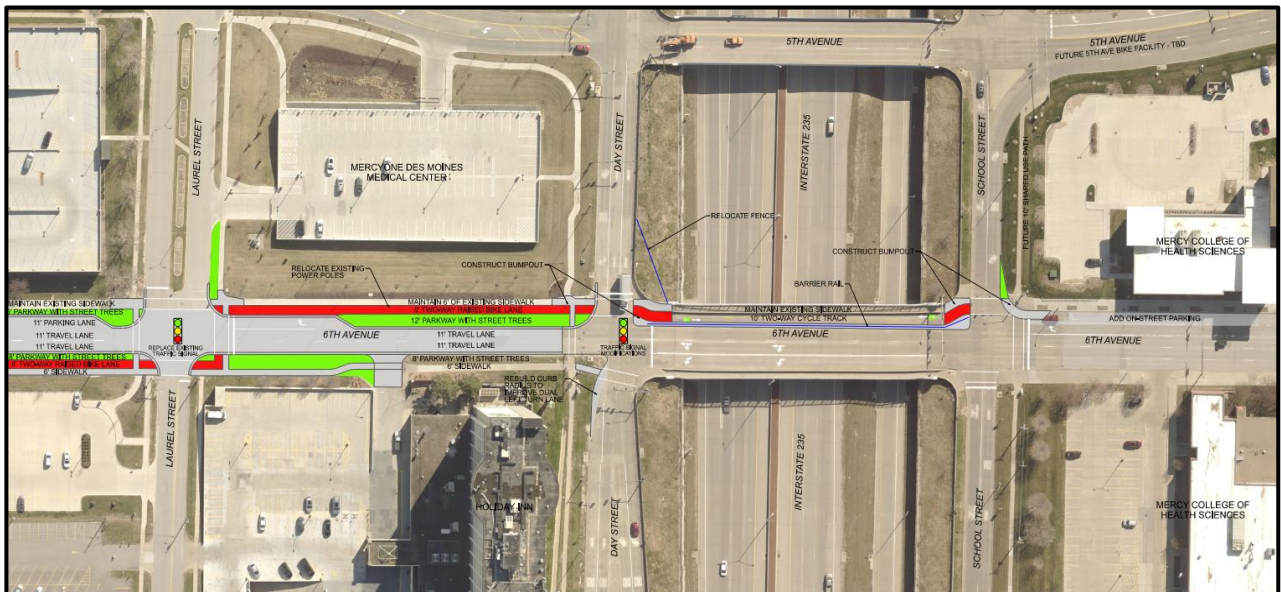
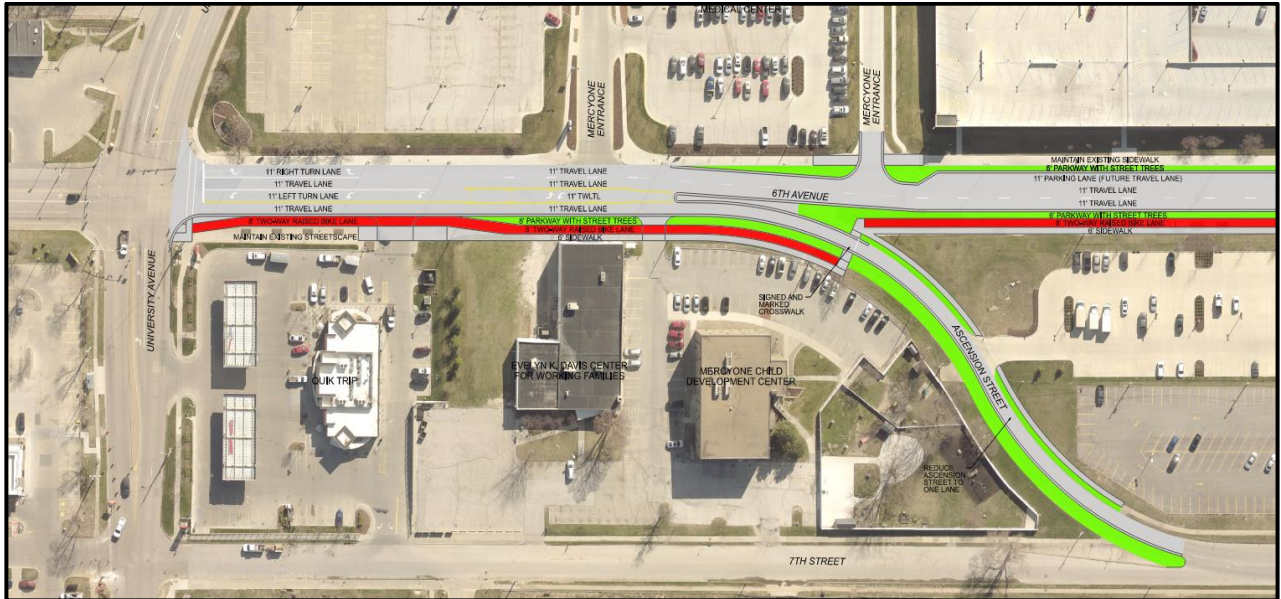
- \$500,000 – TSIP Funding Request
- \$2,500,000 – Remaining amount (pending funding awarded) from 2023-2024 CIP, Page 122, Sixth Avenue, Streetscape, ST266, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for statewide traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash 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 securing funding, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2023, for the next programming cycle.
- Funding requests may be up to \$500,000 per project. Available funding for the Traffic Safety Improvement program varies by year, but past budgeted funding ranges have been between \$5 million and \$6 million. Historically, the State has received applications for more funding than available.

- Staff has reviewed potential projects and recommends the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street be submitted for TSIP Funds. 6th Avenue is on the High Injury Network identified in Des Moines' Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan. According to IDOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2016-2020, this intersection ranks as the 4th highest intersection for potential crash reduction in the entire state of Iowa and 2nd highest (state-wide) for the category of undivided, low-speed traffic signal-controlled intersections.
- The 6th Avenue bridge over Interstate 235 is owned and maintained by IDOT. Engineering staff has worked with IDOT staff to identify safety improvements to reduce the number and severity of crashes at this intersection. Proposed safety improvements at this intersection include:
 - Narrowing the travel lanes on 6th Avenue from 14 feet wide to 11 feet wide.
 - Reducing lanes on 6th Avenue from three (3) lanes to two (2) lanes by removing the easternmost travel lane.
 - Relocating the existing chain-link fence on the southwest corner of the intersection to improve intersection sight distance.
 - Traffic signal timing modifications.
 - Installing additional traffic signal heads to improve visibility of the traffic signal.
 - Installing backplates with retroreflective borders to traffic signal heads as recommended by the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan.
 - Installing a barrier rail separated two (2)-way cycle track on the 6th Avenue bridge over Interstate-235 (I-235).
 - Adding curb bump-outs to shorten pedestrian crossing distance and increase visibility of pedestrians.
 - Installing stop bars and crosswalk pavement markings.
- These improvements will be part of the 6th Avenue Streetscape – Phase 3 project planned for construction in FY2025. This project will be the third and last phase in the revitalization of the 6th Avenue Corridor from the Des Moines River to I-235. The first phase of this project from Hickman Road to College Avenue was completed in 2020. The second phase from College Avenue to University Avenue was completed in 2022.
- The 6th Avenue Streetscape – Phase 3 project, shown conceptually in the graphics below, will include:
 - Narrowing 6th Avenue between University Avenue and Ascension Street, including removing one (1) of the two (2) southbound lanes on 6th Avenue.
 - Narrowing Ascension Street between 6th Avenue and 7th Street, including removing one (1) of the two (2) southbound lanes on Ascension Street.
 - Narrowing 6th Avenue between I-235 and Ascension Street, including removing one (1) of the three (3) northbound lanes on 6th Avenue.
 - Geometric safety and sight distance improvements at the 6th Avenue and Day Street intersection.
 - Adding an 8-foot-wide, two (2)-way, raised bicycle facility along 6th Avenue from University Avenue to I-235.
 - Adding a 5-foot-wide sidewalk along Ascension Street.

- Increasing the amount of parkway with street tree plantings along the corridor between the roadway and sidewalk/raised bicycle facility.
- Replacement of traffic signals at the intersection of Laurel Street and 6th Avenue.
- Traffic signal modifications at the intersection of Day Street and 6th Avenue.
- Resurfacing (mill and overlay) 6th Avenue from University Avenue to Day Street and on Ascension Street.



- The estimated project cost for construction is \$3,000,000 with TSIP Funds in the amount of \$500,000 being requested. Receipt of TSIP Funding would provide for construction of the 6th Avenue Streetscape – Phase 3 project, including the improvements proposed at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street, to start in 2025.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 17, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0970](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (Travis Boone, President) for the 6th Avenue Trail and Sidewalk Improvements (I-235 to University Avenue), not to exceed \$135,500. ([Council Communication No. 23-345](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If approved by IDOT for funding, project agreements would be presented to City Council for consideration.

City staff anticipate actions related to construction, including ordering construction.

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