


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: 24-213	Meeting: May 20, 2024
	Agenda Item: 8	Roll Call: [_____]
	Submitted by: Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of IDOT Agreement No. 2025-TS-010 between the City of Des Moines and IDOT for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,250,000 Estimated total project costs

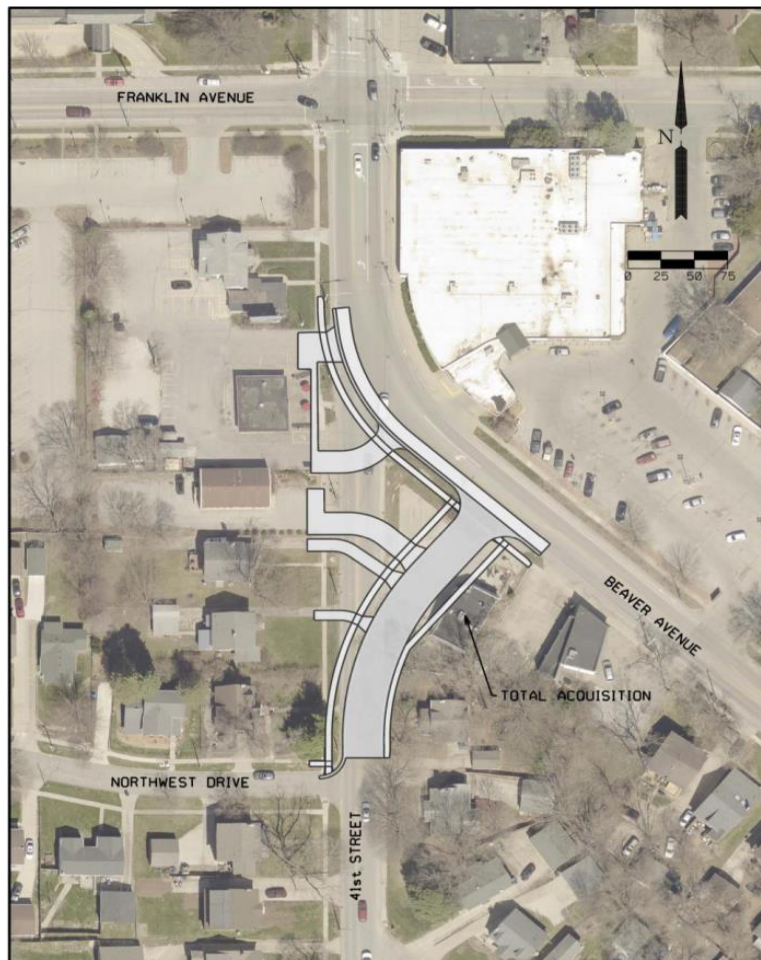
Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 107, 41st Street & Beaver Avenue, ST292, Being:

- \$500,000 – Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) funds
- \$750,000 – General Obligation Bonds

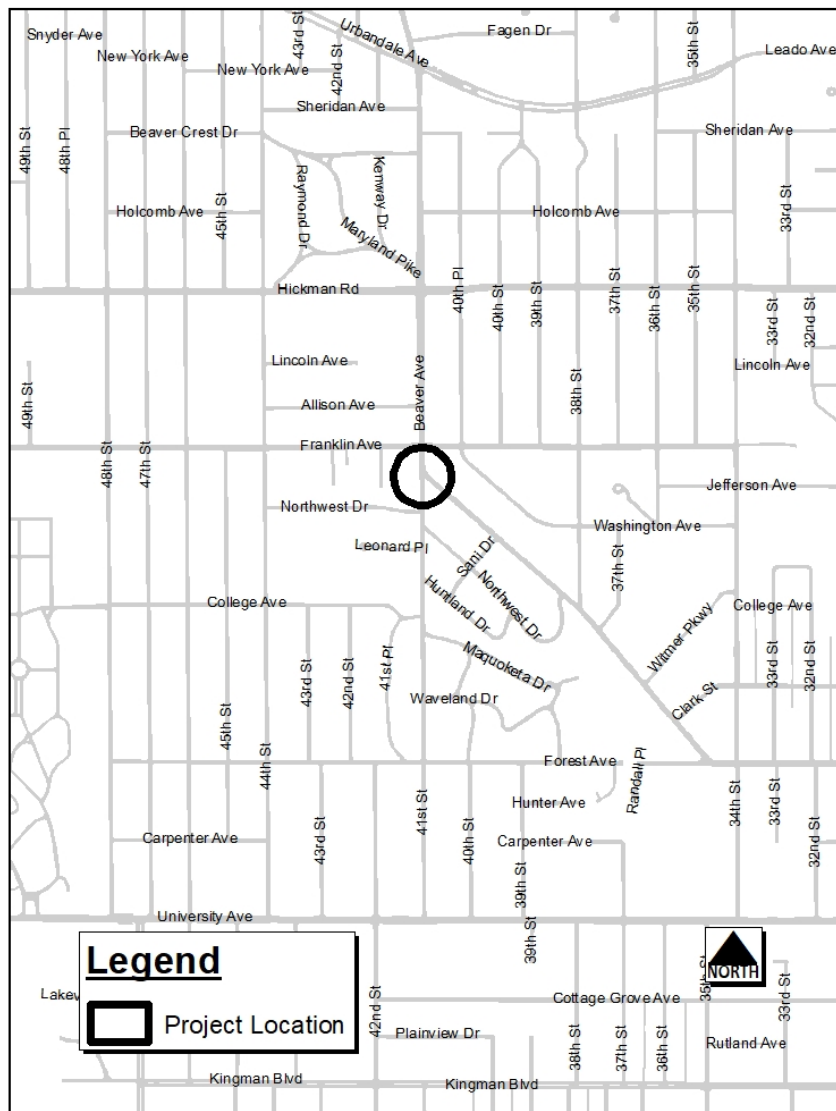
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 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.
- The existing 41st Street and Beaver Avenue intersection’s horizontal alignment is on a skew which has caused safety concerns from street users, including difficulty for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists to know if southbound vehicles will turn right (essentially continuing straight) on 41st Street or continue traveling on Beaver Avenue by going around the curve to their left.

- IDOT determines the potential for crash reduction values for every intersection in Iowa, including county and city roads and streets as well as state routes. IDOT has ranked this intersection as having a “High” potential for crash reduction.
- A traffic study was completed in 2018 to determine how to improve sight distance and fix the skew of the intersection. Based the study, “many close calls were observed at this location of cars wanting to continue straight from 41st Street to northbound on Beaver Avenue. It was noted that cars were confused distinguishing which southbound vehicles were continuing south onto 41st Street and which vehicles were continuing on Beaver Avenue. Observations indicated many occurrences of abrupt braking to avoid potential crashes.” In a 10-year period prior to October 2018 when the traffic study was completed, there were 21 crashes at this intersection resulting in injuries.
- To address the safety issues at this intersection, it is recommended to realign the intersection to a 90-degree T-intersection. The realignment would provide additional northbound queuing storage at the Beaver Avenue and Franklin Avenue intersection. Southbound right turning traffic onto 41st Street would be slowed by the turning radius of the realigned intersection. By defining the southbound turning path, more visual clues for gap decision are provided to northbound traffic on 41st Street. Additionally, the pedestrian crossing of 41st Street is reduced from approximately 50 feet to 30 feet. The proposed intersection will limit the exposure for pedestrians as well as bicycles on Beaver Avenue as well as slow southbound traffic going from Beaver Avenue to 41st Street as this now becomes a turning movement rather than a through movement.



- On May 8, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-0639 (Council Communication No. 23-229), City Council authorized City staff to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements Project. The total property interests needed for this project consists of one (1) total fee acquisition (1760 Beaver Avenue), one (1) permanent easement for implementation of a public pedestrian way, and seven (7) temporary construction easements, all to be acquired from eight (8) separate property owners. Relocation assistance is required for the total fee acquisition. City staff have completed the real estate acquisition with seven (7) of the eight (8) property owners and is scheduled to be completed with the total fee acquisition (1760 Beaver Avenue) later this year, in preparation for construction in 2025.
- On August 7, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-1065, City Council approved the FY 2025 TSIP application to IDOT for the intersection of 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements for \$500,000.
- The estimated project cost is \$1,250,000, with TSIP funds in the amount of \$500,000. The project is anticipated to begin construction in 2025.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 7, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1065](#)

Action: [Approving](#) the FY 2025 TSIP Application to IDOT for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvement Project. ([Council Communication No. 23-364](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated future actions related to this project include, ordering construction, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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