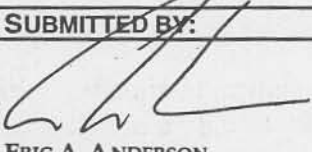


**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-030
JANUARY 15, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
HIGHWAY BRIDGES OF IOWA—NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JIM GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	 ERIC A. ANDERSON CITY MANAGER

SYNOPSIS —

On December 10, 1995 the State Historical Society of Iowa notified staff that the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) plans to consider the following three bridges, which are located in and owned by the City of Des Moines, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places during their February 9, 1996, meeting:

- *SW 5th Street Bridge*, (Jackson Street Bridge) over the Raccoon River;
- *Court Avenue Bridge*, over the Des Moines River; and
- *Second Avenue Overpass*, over Birdland Drive.

On February 10, 1986, the U.S. Department of Interior National Parks Service in cooperation with the State Historical Society of Iowa qualified the City of Des Moines as a Certified Local Government. Part of the City of Des Moines' responsibility as a Certified Local Government is reviewing proposed National Register nominations within its jurisdiction to determine if the nominated properties meet the National Register criteria.

The nomination process includes a required 60-day period in which the Certified Local Government has the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The Des Moines' Historic District Commission reviewed the above nominations at their December 20, 1995, meeting. By a vote of 4-0, the Historic District Commission recommended that the bridges be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic District Commission's recommendation was the first step in this 60-day comment period. The Mayor's recommendations and comments on the nominations are the next step in this process. The City has until February 2, 1996 to submit to the State Historical Society its recommendations and comments on the nominations.

This action will not require any further regulation or review requirements. These three bridges are currently eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. According to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, any agency using federal funds on a project must take into account the effect of the project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 also states that when a district, site, building, structure, or object is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, these review requirements do not increase. The same level of review process is required for both listed and eligible National Register of Historic Places districts and properties. The listing of these bridges on the National Register of Historic Places will not increase the amount of review requirements when federal

funds are used to alter these bridges because these bridges are already eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and are already subject to these requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The listing of the above bridges on the National Register of Historic Places will not have an impact upon the City's budget.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval of the above listed bridges to the National Register of Historic Places.

BACKGROUND —

In 1994, the IDOT hired a consultant to prepare the nomination forms to list over 200 historically and architecturally significant bridges located throughout the State of Iowa on the National Register of Historic Places. The SW 5th Street Bridge, the Court Avenue Bridge, and the Second Avenue Overpass were among these 200+ nominations. These nominations were prepared as a multiple property listing.

On September 20, 1993, by Roll Call No. 93-3491, the Council adopted a resolution approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, whereby the City agreed to seek sufficient funding to place the SW 5th Street Bridge into safe use as part of a bicycle/trail system. Subsequently on December 4, 1995, by Roll Call No. 95-4579, the Council accepted funds from the State Historical Society of Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program and funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to rehabilitate the SW 5th Street Bridge into a bicycle pedestrian path. The nomination of the SW 5th Street Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places will not have any effect upon this project.