

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-229
JUNE 3, 1996 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND IMPROVEMENTS	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JAMES THOMPSON TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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 July 1, 1996. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and has developed four projects for submittal: SE 14th Street and Army Post Road intersection improvement, SE 14th Street and Maury Street traffic signal upgrading and interconnect, downtown traffic signal upgrading—eight intersections, and SE 14th and Southridge Mall south exit traffic signal installation.

FISCAL IMPACT —

1. *SE 14th Street and Army Post Road Intersection Improvement (CIP Page 309)*

State TSF Funds	\$190,000	
City Portion	<u>19,000</u>	(Engineering & Inspection)
Total Project	\$209,000	

2. *SE 14th Street and Maury Street Traffic Signal Upgrading and Interconnect (CIP Page 310)*

State TSF Funds	\$140,000	
City Portion	<u>14,000</u>	(Engineering & Inspection)
Total Project	\$154,000	

3. *Downtown Traffic Signal Upgrading - Eight Intersections (CIP Page 313)*

State TSF Funds	\$360,000	
City Portion	<u>36,000</u>	(Engineering & Inspection)
Total Project	\$396,000	

4. *SE 14th and Southridge Mall South Exit Traffic Signal Installation (CIP Page 309)*

State TSF Funds	\$150,000	
Design Portion (by Southridge Mall)	10,000	
City Portion	<u>5,000</u>	(Inspection Costs)
Total Project	\$165,000	

City funding is provided through the Capital Improvement Program budget as referenced above.

RECOMMENDATION —

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

BACKGROUND —

In 1988, IDOT implemented an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. To date, the City has been successful in receiving approval of 17 projects and \$4 million of State funding. These include the Penn-University intersection widening, traffic signal upgrades, and other intersection improvements. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and opportunities for funding and recommends the following projects:

1. SE 14th Street and Army Post Road Intersection Improvement

The proposed project consists of the addition of a right-turn acceleration lane for southbound traffic turning west and reconstruction of the existing traffic signal installation to remove the median mounted poles and replace them with poles mounted outside the clear zone requirements. The proposed project cost is \$209,000.

Between July 1992 and June 1995, there have been a total of 47 reported accidents at this location with a total dollar loss of almost \$375,000. It is estimated that this project will reduce these accidents by approximately 15 percent, with a benefit/cost ratio of 1.95:1.

2. SE 14th Street and Maury Street Traffic Signal Upgrading and Interconnect

The proposed improvement consists of upgrading the existing traffic signal installation, including interconnection with the traffic signals on SE 14th Street between Court and Maury Avenues. The existing median-mounted signal poles would be removed and new foundations and poles would be installed outside the clear zone requirements. The estimated project cost is \$154,000.

This intersection has been in the City's *top ten* high-accident listing for five of the past eight years. Between July 1992 and June 1995, there were a total of 79 reported accidents with a total dollar loss of \$600,000. It is estimated that this project will reduce these accidents by approximately eight percent, with a benefit/cost ratio of 1.94:1.

3. Downtown Traffic Signal Upgrading—Eight Locations

This project consists of upgrading the traffic signals at the intersections of 4th/Grand, 5th/Grand, 6th/Grand, 7th/Grand, 6th/Locust, 7th/Locust, 6th/High, and 7th/High. The existing pole-mounted signals would be replaced with overhead-mounted indications. The proposed project cost is \$360,000. This project will be constructed in conjunction with the *Downtown Traffic Signal System Upgrading* which is in the design phase at the current time.

Between July 1992 and June 1995, there were a total of 221 reported accidents at these eight intersections with a total dollar loss of \$1,640,000. It is estimated that this project will reduce these accidents by approximately 10 percent, with a benefit/cost ratio of 2.31:1.

4. SE 14th and Southridge Mall South Exit Traffic Signal Installation

This project consists of installing new traffic signals on SE 14th Street at the south exit from Southridge Mall, including interconnection with the traffic signals at SE 14th and Army Post Road. The proposed project cost is \$150,000.

Between July 1992 and June 1995, there were a total of 15 reported accidents at this location with a total dollar loss of over \$700,000. It is estimated that this project will reduce these accidents by approximately 20 percent, with a benefit/cost ratio of 5.53:1.