

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

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-460
SEPTEMBER 22, 1997 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND APPLICATION— INDIANOLA AVENUE CONNECTOR PROJECT	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	HAROLD SMITH CITY ENGINEER

SYNOPSIS —

The Indianola Avenue Connector Project, consisting of realignment of Indianola Avenue from Jackson Avenue to Hillside Avenue, has been identified by City staff as a candidate for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding through the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and an application should be submitted to IDOT for funding.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Total project costs are estimated to be \$5,900,000. Federal funds in the amount of \$4,320,000 will be requested, with the remaining amount of \$1,580,000 programmed in the current Capital Improvements Program (page 300).

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a CMAQ program which directs federal transportation funds toward projects to reduce congestion and air pollution. Iowa's share of the funding is \$4.7 million annually.

IDOT has established guidelines on how to prioritize the disbursement of these funds. Their program is implemented through a statewide competitive application procedure which evaluates each proposed project, based on reducing congestion and pollution, and thereby maintaining the clean air quality that Iowa now enjoys. Types of projects that are eligible for this funding include Traffic Flow Improvements, Shared-Ride Services, Transit Improvements, Pedestrian and Bicycle Programs, and others.

This year's project applications are required to be submitted to IDOT no later than October 1, 1997.

The City has previously received funding for five projects through this program: the Downtown Signal System (\$3,000,000); the East 14th Signal System (\$800,000); the East Side Signal Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$580,000); the Northwest Side Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$400,000); and the Grand/Ingersoll/University Corridor Traffic Signal Interconnection (\$1,000,000). These projects were all approved with 80 percent funding from IDOT.

It is proposed that the City submit the Indianola Avenue Connector Project for consideration to IDOT for this year's funding. This project consists of a new roadway that extends Indianola Avenue diagonally on a new alignment from the Southwest Third Street Bridge (over the Raccoon River) to Hillside Avenue. The roadway will consist of two lanes in each direction with raised channelization, including left-turn lanes at the intersections (see attached drawing).

This project will reduce congestion and pollution and promote cleaner air by providing an improved facility with a shorter travel distance through the area. The project will provide a direct link from the Central Business District to the southeastern part of the City, where substantial growth is taking place. Vehicular travel time, traffic flow, and safety will be improved by eliminating the existing left and right turns that must currently be made along Indianola Avenue, Southeast First Street, and Jackson Avenue due to the existing discontinuous street system.

The project is estimated to be \$5,900,000, with CMAQ funding requested in the amount of \$4,320,000. This funding is proposed to be divided into two allocations over the next two years, with the first year's amount of \$2,080,000 for right-of-way acquisition, and the second year's amount of \$2,240,000 for construction. The City's share of \$1,580,000 is programmed in the 1997-98/2002-03 Capital Improvements Program, page 300. If approved, the project would be scheduled for construction in 2000-01.

Attachment



EAST-WEST SEGMENT

ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT

ALTERNATE ALIGNMENT

INDIANOLA AVENUE CONNECTION

HOMAS BECK RD.

MACRAE PARK

S.W. 9TH ST.

TULLE ST.

S.W. 7TH ST.

S.W. 5TH ST.

INDIANOLA

INDIANOLA AVE.

S.E. 6TH ST.

JACKSON AVE.

RIVERSIDE PARK

RIVERSIDE RIVER

COLUMBUS PARK

JACKSON AVE.

S.E. 6TH ST.

ALLEN ST.

ALLEN PARK
SCOTT AVE

RACCOON