

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-607  
DECEMBER 22, 1997 AGENDA**

**SUBJECT:**

**ROADWAY DETECTION AND  
WEATHER INFORMATION SENSOR**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**JOHN BELLIZZI  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**SYNOPSIS –**

The Public Works Department has purchased equipment and software for a roadway ice detection and weather information sensor for use in monitoring street surface conditions pursuant to snow and ice control. Rather than pay the cost to install and maintain the unit, an agreement has been reached with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) to incorporate the sensor into their Ice Roadway Detection and Weather Information Systems (RWIS) serving the Des Moines area. By agreement, the sensor will be located on East 6th Street at the I-235 Freeway.

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

The equipment has been purchased by the City in the amount of approximately \$42,000, installation and maintenance costs have not yet been budgeted. The installation cost is estimated to be between \$12,000 - \$15,000, and the maintenance cost is \$2,000 per year. As an alternative, the City has negotiated an agreement wherein IDOT will install, maintain, and provide access to the sensor for the City and, in turn, save IDOT the cost of buying the sensor.

Under the agreement, IDOT will purchase the City-owned RWIS equipment for \$1, and install it and maintain the system. In addition, IDOT will provide the City with a separate telephone line (which avoids service fees) with free dial-up access to all four IDOT RWIS sites in the Des Moines area for the term of the 10-year agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval of agreement.**

**BACKGROUND –**

The Public Works Department has been pursuing installation of a roadway weather information sensor on a city street for several years.

An agreement has been reached for installation of the sensor on East 6th Street at the I-235 Freeway. The information provided by the sensor will assist the City in monitoring surface conditions on roadways in Des Moines to improve the overall efficiency of snow and ice control operations.