

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**98-360**

**SYNOPSIS –**

**AGENDA:**  
AUGUST 24, 1998

The Iowa Department of Transportation has prepared a proposed agreement with the City of Des Moines to allow the use of Douglas Avenue as a temporary detour route during the reconstruction of I-35/80 in the Merle Hay Interchange area. The intent of this proposed detour route is that it only be used in the event of an incident that would close I-35/80 during the construction, and the detour would only be used for short periods of time.

**SUBJECT:**  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
AGREEMENT FOR  
TEMPORARY USE OF  
CITY STREET FOR  
INCIDENT DETOUR  
ROUTE

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

**TYPE:**  
**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
HAROLD SMITH  
CITY ENGINEER

**Approval of the Agreement.**

**BACKGROUND –**

The Iowa Department of Transportation has prepared a proposed agreement with the City of Des Moines to allow the use of Douglas Avenue as a temporary detour route during the reconstruction of I-35/80 in the Merle Hay Interchange area. The intent of this proposed detour route is that it only be used in the event of an incident that would close I-35/80 during the construction, and the detour would only be used for short periods of time. The requested City street for use on this temporary detour route is Douglas Avenue from the West Corporate Limits east 0.3 miles to Merle Hay Road. It is expected that potential detour use could occur through December 1, 1999, depending on construction progress.

City Engineering, Police, and Fire staff members have served for a number of years on a metro-wide Freeway Incident Management Committee that has dealt cooperatively with the management of incidents on the freeway system in the Des Moines area. These staff members have received excellent cooperation from the Iowa Department of Transportation and other jurisdictions in dealing with incidents on I-235 and on I-35/80. Douglas Avenue is a major arterial street and would serve as a necessary portion of a detour route if a major incident required the closure of I-35/80 during this construction period.

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