

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

98-576

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 21, 1998

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has an annual program to allocate funds for Traffic Safety Fund Improvements. The deadline for this year's applications is January 1, 1999. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and has developed four projects for submittal: University Avenue pavement restriping project; East 6th Street and University Avenue Bridge bridge railing; Iowa 28 and McKinley Avenue/ Browns Woods Drive addition of southbound right-turn lane; and an Arterial Traffic Signal Visibility Improvement Project for Army Post Road, East University Avenue, and Euclid/Douglas Avenues. Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to submit these four projects to IDOT for this year's funding.

SUBJECT:

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND
APPLICATIONS

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBMITTED BY:

HAROLD SMITH
CITY ENGINEER

1. University Avenue Pavement Restriping Project-31st Street to 48th Street (including Signal Modifications at 42nd and University)

Traffic Safety Funds	\$200,000
City Funds (Design/Inspection)	\$ 10,000
Total Project Cost	\$210,000

2. University Avenue Bridge at East 6th Street-Relocation of Bridge Railing

Traffic Safety Funds	\$100,000
City Funds	\$ 20,000

(Design/Inspection)	
Total Project Cost	\$120,000

3. Iowa 28 and McKinley Avenue/Browns Woods Drive-
Addition of Southbound Right-Turn Lane/Traffic Signals

Traffic Safety Funds	\$125,000/\$250,000
City Funds (Design/Inspection)	\$ 25,000/\$ 40,000
Total Project Cost	\$150,000/\$290,000

4. Arterial Traffic Signal Visibility Improvement
Project-Army Post Road, East University Avenue,
Euclid/Douglas Avenues

Traffic Safety Funds	\$ 50,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 50,000

City funding would be requested through a future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget if these projects are approved by IDOT.

RECOMMENDATION -

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

BACKGROUND -

IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-accident locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem.

Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 25 projects and approximately \$5.7 million. A list of the projects approved is attached to the roll call, which includes several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until January 1, 1999 for the next programming cycle. Staff has reviewed the accident history at various locations, and recommends that the following projects be submitted for the next funding cycle.

1. University Avenue Pavement Restriping Project-31st Street to 48th Street (Including Signal Modifications at 42nd and University)

This project would consist of restriping University Avenue between 31st Street and the 4800 block to a five-lane facility. This can be accomplished within the existing pavement width. Two through lanes would be provided in each direction, along with a two-way left-turn lane in the center of the road. Currently, parking is allowed on both sides of University Avenue, except in the appropriate rush hour periods, and this will continue to be allowed. The traffic signals at the intersection of 42nd and University would be modified to provide detection of the side street and left-turn phases. The project cost is estimated at \$200,000, which will be requested from Traffic Safety Funding.

2. University Avenue Bridge at East 6th Street-Relocation of Bridge Railing

This project would involve the relocation of the south bridge railing on the east end of the University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River. This railing was relocated to meet minimum sight distance standards approximately ten years ago as part of a bridge repair project. It is proposed to extend this widening by 80 feet to provide a more desirable sight visibility for motorists entering University Avenue from East 6th Street. The construction cost is estimated to be \$100,000, which will be requested from Traffic Safety Funding.

3. Iowa 28 and McKinley Avenue/Browns Woods Drive- Addition of Southbound Right-Turn Lane/Traffic Signals

This project would provide a southbound right-turn lane for motorists on Iowa 28 approaching McKinley Avenue/Browns Woods Drive. Since this section of highway was opened in late 1995, there have been 13 reported right-angle accidents. Twelve of these involved southbound vehicles on Iowa 28 being struck by eastbound vehicles on Browns Woods Drive, three of which specifically indicated that visibility was obscured by a southbound right-turning vehicle. The project would improve this visibility by providing a separate southbound right-turn lane. The project cost is estimated to be \$125,000, which will be requested from Traffic Safety Funding.

Staff is also working with IDOT to determine if traffic signals are warranted at this location. If it is determined that they are warranted, the application for funding would be increased to \$250,000 to provide funds for signalization.

4. Arterial Traffic Signal Visibility Improvement Project-Army Post Road, East University Avenue, Euclid/Douglas Avenues

This project will improve signal visibility at the existing traffic signals on Army Post Road, East University, and the Euclid/Douglas corridor. Traffic signal backplates and brighter signal lenses would be installed for the east-west directions of travel.

This project will request "traffic control device" funds from the Traffic Safety Fund Program. These funds will pay for material costs, which are estimated to be \$50,000. The installation would be completed by City staff.