

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-482

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

OCTOBER 25, 1999

SUBJECT:

IDOT AGREEMENT
FOR TRAFFIC
SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT
FUNDING -
UNIVERSITY
AVENUE BRIDGE
OVER DES MOINES
RIVER

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has proposed an agreement between the City of Des Moines and IDOT for Traffic Safety Improvement Funding. This funding provides for modifying the south parapet wall at the east end of the University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River to provide improved sight distance at the intersection of East 6th Street.

FISCAL IMPACT -

IDOT will provide funding for the construction of this project up to a maximum of \$100,000. The remaining project cost, estimated to be \$30,000, will be funded from City-Wide Bridges in the Capital Improvements Budget.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

On December 21, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-3863, Council authorized the submittal of a proposal to IDOT for State Traffic Safety Funding for modifying the south parapet wall at the east end of the University Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River to provide improved sight distance at the intersection of East 6th Street. Subsequently, IDOT reviewed this application and determined that the proposed project was eligible for Traffic Safety Funding.

The proposed project consists of removing a portion of the existing bridge railing and parapet wall on the south side of the University Avenue Bridge nearest the East 6th Street/East

University Avenue intersection. This railing would be reconstructed farther to the south, in order to provide the desirable sight distance for motorists waiting on East 6th Street to enter East University Avenue.

Approximately ten years ago, a major widening of this railing was done at the time the University Avenue Bridge was undergoing repair work. The modifications at that time provided a sight distance design of 320 feet based on a vehicle stopped on East 6th Street with its bumper at the south curb line of East University Avenue. The proposed project would allow a vehicle to wait five feet behind the curb line (allowing an area for pedestrians to cross in front of the vehicle) and still provide for sight distance of 400 feet.