

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-552

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 20, 1999

SUBJECT:

RAILROAD
CROSSING
IMPROVEMENT
AGREEMENT ON
SIXTH AVENUE
AND S.W. SEVENTH
STREET AT VINE
STREET

An agreement has been negotiated between the City and Heartland Rail Corporation (403 West Fourth Street North, Newton, Iowa, 50208, Donald C. Byers, President) and its operating subsidiary, Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd., for improved street crossings on Sixth Avenue and S.W. Seventh Street at Vine Street. Currently a rail crossing exists on S.W. Seventh Street which must be reconstructed and a new crossing must be constructed for Sixth Avenue where it crosses this same railroad track. Construction of these railroad crossings are necessary to allow traffic to use the new Sixth Avenue and S.W. Seventh Street paving which is currently under construction between Mulberry Street and Murphy Street.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT -

The estimated cost to construct these grade crossings, signals and gates is \$395,338.70 to be funded out of the Capital Improvements Budget for Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway - East/West Segment.

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P. E.
CITY ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

On November 8, 1866, by Ordinance No. 62, the City Council of Des Moines, Iowa granted the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company the right to operate a railroad within the Vine Street right-of-way. The Heartland Rail Corporation and its operating subsidiary, Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd., currently operates this railroad as a successor in interest to the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company.

On May 24, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-1634, Council approved a contract and bond with M. Peterson Construction Company for the Sixth Avenue and S.W. Seventh Street paving contract which includes new paving on S.W. Seventh Street from Mulberry Street to Murphy Street, and a new crossover from S.W. Seventh Street to Sixth Avenue for northbound traffic.

This new pavement, which replaces the Seventh Street Viaduct, crosses the existing railroad lines within the Vine Street right-of-way and a new railroad crossing must be constructed on both Sixth Avenue and S.W. Seventh Street.

