



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-555

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 20, 1999

SUBJECT:

IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC SAFETY
FUND
APPLICATIONS

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has an annual program to provide funds for Traffic Safety Fund (TSF) Improvements. The deadline for this year's applications is January 1, 2000. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and has developed five projects for submittal: Ingersoll Avenue/Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway Intersection improvements, Hubbell Avenue at East 33rd Street Intersection improvement, SW 42nd Street and Park Avenue Intersection improvement, 50th Street and Douglas Avenue Traffic Signalization, and East 14th Street/University Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade. Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to submit these five projects to the IDOT for this year's funding.

TYPE:

FISCAL IMPACT -

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

SUBMITTED BY:

**FLOYD BENTZ
CITY ENGINEER**

- 1. Ingersoll Avenue/Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway Intersection Improvement.
Traffic Safety Funds \$500,000
Total Project Cost \$38,240,000
(Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway North-South Segment)
- 2. East 33rd and Hubbell Intersection Improvement.
Traffic Safety Funds \$500,000
Bridge Replacement Funds \$850,000
City Funds \$350,000
Total Project Cost \$1,700,000
- 3. SW 42nd Street and Park Avenue Intersection Improvement.
Traffic Safety Funds \$50,000
City Funds \$300,000
Total Project Cost \$350,000
- 4. 50th Street and Douglas Avenue Traffic Signals.
Traffic Safety Funds \$250,000

City Funds (Design/Inspection) \$30,000
Total Project Cost \$280,000

5. East 14th Street/University Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade.
Traffic Safety Funds \$75,000
Other State Funds \$40,000
City Funds \$55,000
Total Project Cost \$170,000

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

RECOMMENDATION -

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

BACKGROUND -

The 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.

Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 29 projects and approximately \$6.1 million. A list of the projects approved, which includes several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects is attached to the roll call. Applications are currently being accepted until January 1, 2000 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. Ingersoll Avenue/Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway Intersection Improvements.

This request is to assist with funding for the north/south segment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway project. The intersection at Ingersoll Avenue has experienced a significant

accident history justifying the application for Traffic Safety Funds. The overall project will provide a new 6-lane facility from Center Street south to Fleur Drive. The total project cost is currently estimated at \$38 million. The City will request that \$500,000 (the maximum amount available) be provided from Traffic Safety Funds.

2. Hubbell Avenue at East 33rd Street Intersection Improvement.

The City of Des Moines currently has plans to replace the Hubbell Avenue Bridge over Four-Mile Creek, and has received \$850,000 in federal bridge replacement funds for this project. This bridge is located adjacent to the intersection of East 33rd / Hubbell. It is proposed that this intersection be widened to include left-turning lanes and new signalization in conjunction with the bridge-widening project. A cost estimate for the revised project is approximately \$1,700,000. It is anticipated that \$500,000 will be requested from Traffic Safety Funding.

3. SW 42nd Street and Park Avenue Intersection Improvement.

This project would include construction of a westbound left turning lane on Park Avenue and installation of traffic signals at the intersection. Currently, there is considerable delay for SW 42nd Street traffic at this location during the morning and evening peak periods, resulting in a number of right-angle accidents. A cost estimate for this project is approximately \$350,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$50,000 would be requested.

4. 50th Street and Douglas Avenue Traffic Signalization.

This project would include installation of traffic signals, along with minor regrading on the northwest corner to improve sight distance. The intersection has experienced a considerable number of right-angle accidents in recent years, justifying the installation of signals. The existing mid-block school signal on Douglas Avenue for Moore Elementary School would be relocated farther west to between 51st and 52nd Streets, in front of the school's main entrance. It is estimated that \$250,000 will be requested for this project from Traffic Safety Funds.

5. East 14th Street/University Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade.

This project would involve replacement of the existing traffic signals with new overhead mast-arm mounted signals. Existing median-mounted poles would be eliminated. The project would request "Traffic Control Device" funds from the Traffic Safety Fund Program. These funds will pay for material costs, which are estimated to be \$75,000. If approved, the City would also request Iowa Department of Transportation funding for approximately one-half of the remaining construction costs, estimated at \$75,000.

