

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**00-322**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

JULY 10, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

IDOT AGREEMENT  
FOR THE MERLE  
HAY ROAD  
WIDENING FROM  
OVID AVENUE TO  
DOUGLAS AVENUE

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

An agreement has been proposed between the City and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the widening of Merle Hay Road from Ovid Avenue to Douglas Avenue. This project would provide a continuous two-way left turn lane on Merle Hay Road. Commercial driveways will be combined/relocated where possible to enhance safety. The total project cost, including right-of-way acquisition, is estimated to be \$1,500,000.

The City will provide design and construction inspection services for the project. The cost for these services, subsequent to April 4, 2000, will be reimbursed to the City 100 percent by IDOT. IDOT will acquire all necessary right-of-way for the project. The project will be let by IDOT, and the contract will be awarded through the City of Des Moines. The City will be responsible for 5 percent of construction and right-of-way costs and a prorated share of longitudinal and outlet storm sewer costs. The City's cost is estimated to be \$100,000. IDOT has prepared an agreement for the proposed improvement.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

Funding for the construction cost is shown in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, page STR-40, Merle Hay Road Widening - Ovid Avenue to Douglas Avenue. All costs incurred after April 4, 2000 in preparing this project for bid letting will be reimbursed by IDOT.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval of this agreement with IDOT.**

**BACKGROUND -**

On June 15, 1998, by Roll Call No. 98-1831, City Council authorized the City Manager to submit an application to IDOT for Traffic Safety Funding to widen Merle Hay Road between Ovid and Douglas Avenues. The proposed project would provide for two lanes in each direction on Merle Hay Road along with a center two-way continuous turn lane.

This section of Merle Hay Road was identified as the 9th highest accident location in IDOT's "Top 200" statewide listing, based on 1992-1996 crash data. In that time period, there were 84 reported accidents. Approximately 60 percent of these were rear-end and sideswipe crashes that were caused by a vehicle in the left through lane of traffic waiting to turn left. The construction of a two-way left turn lane will substantially reduce the number of these accidents.

IDOT subsequently approved funding in the amount of \$500,000 out of an estimated \$1,370,000 project. The remainder of the costs were to be shared approximately equally between the City and other IDOT funds, with the City's portion estimated at \$455,000.

Since then, staff has been working with IDOT to convert the funding of this project to involve federal safety funding, which would allow the construction and right-of-way costs to be 90 percent federal, 5 percent IDOT, and 5 percent City. Design and inspection costs incurred after April 4, 2000 would be funded 100 percent by IDOT.

In January 2000, IDOT approved this project for federal safety funding, with an estimated cost of \$1,500,000. IDOT has also prepared an agreement for the City's consideration. The City has been asked to provide preliminary survey, design, and construction inspection for this project. All of these costs incurred after April 4, 2000, would be 100 percent reimbursed by IDOT. Five percent of the construction and right-of-way costs and a prorated share of longitudinal and outlet storm sewer costs will be the responsibility of the City. The total obligation for the City, based on preliminary cost estimates, is now estimated at \$100,000.