



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**00-571**

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

**AGENDA:**

DECEMBER 18, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
TRAFFIC SAFETY  
FUND  
APPLICATIONS

**SYNOPSIS -**

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, 2001. Staff has reviewed various high-accident locations and has developed four projects for submittal: Fleur Drive/Bell Avenue left turn modifications, Highway 69/County Line Road Traffic Signalization including left-turn lanes, Beaver Avenue/Hickman Road Traffic Signal Upgrade, and Merle Hay Road/Douglas Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade. Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to submit these four projects to the IDOT for this year's funding.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

- 1. Fleur Drive/Bell Avenue Left-Turn Lane Modifications
  - Traffic Safety Funds \$250,000
  - City Funds (Design/Inspection)\$40,000
  - Total Project Cost \$290,000
- 2. Highway 69/County Line Road Traffic Signalization, Including Left-Turn Lanes
  - Traffic Safety Funds \$125,000
  - Other State Funds \$95,000
  - City Funds \$120,000
  - Total Project Cost \$340,000
- 3. Beaver Avenue/Hickman Road Traffic Signal Upgrade
  - Traffic Safety Funds \$150,000
  - City Funds (Design/Inspection)\$20,000
  - Total Project Cost \$170,000
- 4. Merle Hay Road/Douglas 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 in the amount of \$235,000 would be requested through future Capital Improvement Programs if these projects are approved by the IDOT.

#### **RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT.**

#### **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.

Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 34 projects and approximately \$7.5 million. A list of the projects approved is attached to the Roll Call, which has included several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until January 1, 2001 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. Fleur Drive/Bell Avenue Left-Turn Lane Modifications.**

This project would involve realignment of the north-south left-turn lanes on Fleur Drive at Bell Avenue. The existing medians would be narrowed at the intersection to provide better sight distance for opposing left-turning vehicles. These modified medians would be designed to be compatible with the "Fleur Drive Beautification" design, which is currently under study. Minor island changes would also be made for the westbound lane leaving the intersection, in order to better accommodate turning trucks. The estimated construction cost is \$250,000, which will be requested from IDOT Traffic Safety

Funds.

2. Highway 69/County Line Road Traffic Signalization, Including Left-Turn Lanes.

This project would consist of installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Highway 69 and County Line Road/Indianola Avenue. It would also include construction of north-south left-turn lanes on Highway 69. The preliminary construction cost estimate for this project is \$300,000. It appears that \$125,000 can be justified from Traffic Safety Funds. Funding for the remainder is anticipated from both the City's Capital Improvements Program and IDOT under their "U-STEP" program.

3. Beaver Avenue/Hickman Road 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 estimated construction cost for this work is \$150,000, which will be requested from Traffic Safety Funds.

4. Merle Hay Road/Douglas 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 IDOT funding for approximately one-half of the remaining construction costs, estimated at \$75,000.