

Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

01-410

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

AGENDA:

AUGUST 6, 2001

SUBJECT:

RAILROAD CROSSING
IMPROVEMENT
AGREEMENT ON
11TH/12TH STREET
CONNECTOR - MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.
PARKWAY TO CHERRY
STREET

SYNOPSIS -

An agreement has been negotiated between the City of Des Moines and Heartland Rail Corporation (Donald C. Buers, President, 403 W. 4th Street N., Newton, Iowa, 50208) and its operating subsidiary Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd., for improved street crossings on the 11th/12th Street Connector - Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Parkway to Cherry Street. Currently, a rail crossing exists on SW 11th Street which must be relocated and a new crossing must be constructed for the 11th/12th Street Connector - MLK Parkway to Cherry Street where it crosses this same railroad track. Construction of this railroad crossing is necessary to allow traffic to use the new 11th/12th Street Connector which will soon be under construction between MLK Parkway and Cherry Street.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT -

The estimated cost to construct the grade crossing, signals, and gates is estimated to be \$182,315.29 to be funded out of the Capital Improvements Budget for the 11th/12th Street Connector - MLK Parkway to Cherry Street.

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

On November 8, 1866, by Ordinance No. 62, the City Council 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.

The connector street is being constructed due to the closing of SW 11th Street by the Allied project. On June 4, 2001, by Roll Call No. 01-1643, the City Council ordered construction, set bid and hearing dates for the 11th/12th Street Connector - MLK Parkway to Cherry Street paving contract.

This new pavement, which replaces SW 11th Street, crosses the existing railroad lines within the Vine Street right-of-way, and a new railroad crossing must be constructed on the connector.

An agreement for this railroad crossing improvement has been negotiated with Heartland Rail Corporation and its operating subsidiary, Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd., which specifies the railroad will be responsible to construct a new street crossing at the 11th/12th Street Connector with the City to reimburse the railroad for its actual costs for the new crossing and the grade crossing protective signals and gates.
