

Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

01-494

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

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 24, 2001

SUBJECT:

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

SYNOPSIS -

On July 10, 2000, by Roll Call 00-2002, an agreement was approved between the City of Des Moines and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the widening of Merle Hay Road from Ovid Avenue to Douglas Avenue. This project provides a continuous two-way left turn lane along this stretch of road. Commercial driveways will be combined where possible. The total project cost, including right-of-way acquisition, is estimated to be \$1,500,000.

Since the approval of the original agreement, staff has been working with IDOT to include the traffic signal upgrading at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Merle Hay Road as part of the original project. IDOT has agreed to include this signal work and has prepared Addendum No. 2000-16-181A to incorporate this work.

TYPE:

FISCAL IMPACT -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

The estimated cost of the traffic signal upgrading is \$150,000, which would be paid 90 percent by Federal funds, five percent State funds, and five percent City funds. The total additional City cost would be \$7,500 for this traffic signal upgrade.

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

The total obligation for the City of Des Moines, based on preliminary cost estimates, is now estimated at \$107,500.

All costs incurred after April 4, 2000 in preparing this project for bid letting will be reimbursed by IDOT.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

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 ninth 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 was to be shared approximately equal between the City and other IDOT funds, with the City's portion estimated at \$455,000.

Staff successfully worked with IDOT to convert the funding of this project to involve Federal safety funding, which allows the construction and right-of-way costs to be 90 percent Federal, five percent IDOT, and five percent City. Design and inspection costs incurred after April 4, 2000 are to 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 prepared an agreement for the revised funding which was approved by City Council on July 10, 2000 by Roll Call 00-2002. The City will provide preliminary survey, design, and construction inspection for this project. All of these costs incurred after April 4, 2000, will 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.
