

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-173**

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

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

APRIL 8, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

To ensure the quality of street excavation restorations, the Public Works Department restores plumbing contractor excavations on paved streets. The amount charged for street service restorations is standardized based on the surface size, the depth of cut, and the type of street as shown on the Street Cut Restoration Charges Table of Charges attached to the roll call. As discussed during the Public Works' operating budget presentation, the charges have not been increased since 1998 and a ten percent increase in the rate is now recommended to more accurately reflect actual costs for restoring street excavations.

STREET CUT  
RESTORATION  
CHARGES

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

The cost for restoring street excavations is billed directly to the contractor making the excavation.

WILLIAM STOWE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

JEB BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**Approve an increase in the rates charged for street excavation repairs to more closely reflect the costs incurred.**

**BACKGROUND -**

The Public Works Department restores all excavations on paved streets to ensure quality and, in turn, reduce further defects. Funding for the program is provided for in the Public Works Department with revenue generated by billing the contractor creating the excavation. The amounts charged have been standardized relative to surface size, depth of cut, and type of street.

Prior to this recommendation for a rate increase, the Public Works Department met with area plumbers on January 16, 2002 to review construction standards for street excavations and the rates the City

charges for restoration of street service cuts. Discussions were held on street reconstruction specifications and alternatives to the City's current street cut restoration program. Staff also explained the need for a rate increase to more accurately reflect actual costs for street excavation restoration. At that time, it was agreed that a ten percent rate increase would be recommended for implementation July 1, 2002, and that alternatives would be explored to City-only restoration of service cuts such as public/private partnerships and/or plumber-initiated restoration with City inspection. A follow-up meeting with area plumbers is scheduled for April 23, 2002 to discuss these alternatives.

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