



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-195**

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

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

APRIL 8, 2002

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) notified the City of Des Moines that Federal Safety Funds for Merle Hay Road Widening from Ovid Avenue to Douglas Avenue have been withdrawn from the current five-year program. The project budget includes \$170,000 of City funds and \$1,440,000 Federal Safety Funds. Without the Federal funds, the project must be delayed until funds are restored.

**SUBJECT:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

IDOT NOTIFICATION  
OF FUND  
WITHDRAWAL -  
MERLE HAY ROAD  
WIDENING - OVID  
AVENUE TO  
DOUGLAS AVENUE

The loss of the Federal Safety Funding will result in the project being delayed until additional funding is secured.

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**Receive and file communication on status of Merle Hay Road funding.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**BACKGROUND -**

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

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 third highest accident location in IDOT's "Top 200" statewide listing, based on 1995-1999 crash data. In that time period, there were 98 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 equally 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 were to be funded 100 percent by IDOT.

---