

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**02-459**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

AUGUST 19, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

TRAFFIC  
IMPROVEMENTS TO  
INGERSOLL  
AVENUE TO  
ADDRESS  
TEMPORARY  
INCREASE IN  
TRAFFIC DUE TO  
ROAD  
CONSTRUCTION

Recommendation from the Ingersoll Avenue Planning Committee regarding improvements to Ingersoll Avenue to address temporary increase in traffic expected during construction on Grand Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, and Interstate 235 (I-235). The recommendation includes turning lane improvements at 28th, 31st, 35th, and 42nd Street intersections, morning peak time bus lane, extension of time the pedestrian crossing lights show "walk" and the placement of advance road closed signs at 63rd and Grand Avenue.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The traffic signal improvements and pavement markings for the turning lanes will be funded from the Capital Improvements Program, I-235 Parallel Street Improvements, with \$308,200 of State Traffic Safety Funds and an estimated \$76,800 of City General Obligation (G. O.) bonds. Minor pavement marking and signing costs for the bus lane will be funded from the Traffic and Transportation Division Operating Budget. Advance ROAD CLOSED signing for the closure of Grand Avenue is included in the construction plans and specifications for the section of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from Ingersoll Avenue south to the Raccoon River.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**Approve the recommendation outlined in this letter.**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND -**

JEB BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

On June 3, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-1473, the City Council directed staff to work with the Ingersoll Area Association and surrounding neighborhoods to create the Ingersoll Avenue Planning Committee. This Committee's mission is to work with staff to develop a long-range plan for Ingersoll that includes traffic, parking, streetscape,

development opportunities, and land use components. The Council also requested the Committee's input on short-term solutions to deal with the temporary increase of traffic that is expected on Ingersoll Avenue during construction on Grand Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr., and I-235.

On June 20, 2002, the Committee met for the first time. At this meeting, staff presented several options for the Committee to work from. These options included turning lane improvements at the 28th, 31st, 35th, and 42nd Street intersections, peak-time bus lanes, a reversible lane in conjunction with the turning lane and bus lane improvements, and a no improvement option.

The Committee met again on June 27, 2002, and prepared a tentative recommendation to present to the public for comment.

On July 25, 2002, the Committee and staff held an open house at the Art House (2811 Ingersoll Avenue) from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Through mailings and press releases, the public was asked to attend the open house to review the options under consideration. The open house was attended by approximately 100 people representing business and property owners, as well as neighborhood residents. While questions were varied, most were generally concerned with the potential loss of parking or that the temporary improvements would never be removed. There was also considerable excitement expressed regarding the long-term plan that is going to be created and how its implementation could enhance the Ingersoll area.

On July 30, 2002, the Committee met to review input from the open house and to work toward finalizing a recommendation for the City Council.

### **Committee Recommendation**

On August 15, 2002, the Committee met to finalize their recommendation. After much consideration, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1. To the extent possible, implement short-term solutions consistent with the long-term vision for Ingersoll Avenue.**
- 2. Install turn lanes and signal improvements at the intersections of 28th, 31st, 35th, and 42nd Streets with the stipulations listed below.**

- a) Reduce the turn lanes from the standard 260 feet to 160 feet in length. Reducing the length of the lanes lessens their impact on parking and Ingersoll's appearance.
- b) Create inset parking stalls adjacent to the properties located at 2806 Ingersoll Avenue and 3512 Ingersoll Avenue to negate the loss of on-street spots. Consider the creation of additional inset stalls to replace lost on-street parking as requested by one or more business/property owners who demonstrate a need. Business/property owners will be responsible for the maintenance, such as snow removal, of the new inset stalls. This concept should be limited to areas of serious impact, since the new inset spots create a wider street that is most likely in conflict with the long-term plan.
- c) Increase the time the pedestrian crossing signal shows "walk" to allow pedestrians, particularly the elderly and physically challenged, more time to cross the street.
- d) Consult with the Committee on the selection of the new traffic signals. New poles and lights must be chosen carefully so that they fit the character of Ingersoll Avenue while maintaining the basic requirements of the safety funds and can be reasonably operated and maintained by the City.
- e) Review the lane configuration on Ingersoll Avenue upon completion of the Grand Avenue bridge in late 2003. Take action during lane construction on I-235 to preserve the pedestrian friendly character of Ingersoll Avenue.
- f) Complete development of a long-range plan for Ingersoll Avenue and submit to Council by August, 2003, the earliest date Grand Avenue will be reopened. The goal of the plan will be to address long-term parking, traffic, and land use along Ingersoll Avenue in a way that preserves and enhances the unique commercial character and pedestrian nature of Ingersoll Avenue.

**3. Utilize an eastbound bus lane during morning commute, from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with the stipulation listed below.**

- a) Monitor the bus lane configuration on Ingersoll Avenue during the operation and make adjustments as needed. Once the Grand Avenue bridge is completed in late 2003, review the bus lane configuration's effectiveness. Based on the review, a determination will be made whether to continue using the bus lane until I-235 reconstruction is complete or to remove it immediately.

**4. Place signs near 63rd and Grand and other appropriate locations to notify drivers that Grand Avenue is closed from 28th Street to 18th Street with the stipulation listed below.**

a) Use the strongest possible language to encourage drivers to use I-235.

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