

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-362**

**AGENDA:**

JULY 28, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

IDOT AGREEMENT  
FOR BEAVER DRIVE  
OVER I-35/80-  
DETOUR ROUTE

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

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

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has prepared an agreement to designate a temporary detour route during bridge beam repair on the Beaver Drive Bridge over Interstate 35/80 (I-35/80). This detour route utilizes Meredith Drive between Beaver Drive and Merle Hay Road. The remainder of the detour route involves streets outside of the City of Des Moines.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

The City will incur minor costs for a four-way stop at 50th Street and Meredith Drive, but will not incur any additional costs for this detour.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval of this Agreement with IDOT.**

**BACKGROUND —**

The Beaver Drive Bridge over I-35/80 has been damaged by a high load. IDOT has developed a project for the beam repair of the Beaver Drive Bridge, which is scheduled to be let in August of 2003. It is anticipated that the project will begin by September 1, 2003, and be completed by December 1, 2003.

During the repair of the three bridge beams, it will be necessary to close the Beaver Drive Bridge and provide a detour for Beaver Drive traffic. The proposed detour will be as follows:

Beginning at Beaver Drive and NW 44th Street, south on NW 44th Street to Meredith Drive, then west on Meredith Drive to Merle Hay Road, then north on Merle Hay Road to Johnston Drive, then east on Johnston Drive to Beaver Drive.

The Meredith Neighborhood Association has expressed concern about the additional traffic on Meredith Drive, especially how it will affect the intersection of 50th and Meredith. Staff has reviewed this intersection for a temporary traffic signal or four-way stop based on the neighborhood concerns. In general, a traffic signal does not work well on a two-lane road without turn lanes; if the first vehicle in line wants to turn left, they block all other vehicles behind them. In addition, the cost for a temporary signal is

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION**  
03-362  
JULY 28, 2003  
PAGE TWO

estimated to be \$10,000-15,000 for a relatively short duration project.

A four-way stop will create additional stops and delay on the detour route, but will make it easier and safer for traffic on 50th Street to enter Meredith Drive. There would be minimal cost for installing a four-way stop during the time of the project.

Attached to the roll call is a copy of the IDOT letter further explaining the proposed work. The Engineering Department has reviewed this agreement and recommends approval. Staff will coordinate with Polk County for installation of a four-way stop to be in effect during this construction project.

