



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION—

Agenda Date: 09/26/2005
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Communication No.: 05-535
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT—

Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Urban State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP) Application—SE 14th Street and Hartford Avenue

SYNOPSIS—

The IDOT provides funds through the U-STEP for projects along state highways within municipalities. The IDOT will fund 55% of the construction costs for approved projects. Staff requests that a U-STEP application be submitted to the IDOT for improvements at the intersection of SE 14th Street (U.S. 69) and Hartford Avenue, consisting of the addition and extension of turning lanes at this location.

FISCAL IMPACT—

The total construction cost is estimated at \$250,000. If approved, U-STEP funds in the amount of \$137,500 (55%) would be available. The City's portion of construction costs would be \$112,500 (45%). The City would also be responsible for design and construction administration costs, estimated to be \$50,000. City funding would be requested through a future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) if this project were approved by the IDOT.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval and authorization to submit an application to the IDOT for U-STEP funds.

BACKGROUND—

The IDOT provides funds through the U-STEP for projects that will alleviate traffic operation and safety problems on State Highways within Iowa cities. If approved, the IDOT will fund 55% of the construction costs. The City would fund the remaining 45%. The City is also responsible for all engineering and administration costs.

The intersection of SE 14th Street (U.S. 69) and Hartford Avenue has experienced traffic increases over the past few years. The James W. Cownie Soccer Complex, along with the overall residential development in the southeast area of Des Moines, has generated additional traffic. In the near future, the Greater South Side Little League Baseball Complex will add to this traffic increase. The soccer complex has 12 full-sized tournament soccer fields, with parking for over 1,200 cars. This year, there were 10 major soccer tournaments that were expected to draw approximately 3,000 cars each, along with a number of other minor tournaments and other events. The baseball complex, which is currently under construction and estimated for completion later this year, will have 8 adjoining fields and parking for approximately 200 cars.

Almost all of the traffic destined for these two recreational facilities travels through the intersection of SE 14th Street and Hartford Avenue. When a major tournament takes place at the soccer complex, there are considerable traffic backups in the southbound left-turn lane on SE 14th Street as traffic heads toward the complex. This creates difficulties for the southbound through traffic, since the existing left-turn storage length is not sufficient to accommodate all of these turning vehicles, causing them to back up into the southbound through lane. Later on, as the vehicles exit the soccer complex, the westbound lanes of Hartford Avenue approaching SE 14th Street also back up considerable as the cars exit the soccer facility. With the completion of the baseball complex, these backups will likely increase.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a westbound right-turn lane on Hartford Avenue approaching SE 14th Street and modification of the center median on the north leg of SE 14th Street to provide a 375-foot southbound left-turn lane approaching Hartford Avenue. The estimated construction costs is \$250,000, and the estimated total project cost is \$300,000.