



Agenda Item:
9A

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 11/07/05
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-637
Roll Call No.:

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

SUBJECT—

Approving and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation Agreement for S.E. 14th Street and Hartford Avenue Turn Lane Modifications and Authorization to Proceed and Acquire Right-of-Way.

SYNOPSIS—

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has proposed an agreement between the City of Des Moines and the IDOT for S.E. 14th Street and Hartford Avenue Turn Lane Modifications. The total estimated project cost is \$300,000.

The construction costs are eligible for 55% reimbursement by IDOT Urban State Traffic Engineering (U-STEP) Funds, up to a maximum of \$137,500. The City of Des Moines will provide matching funding for construction, design and construction administration services. Total City funding is estimated to be \$162,500.

This action also includes Council authorization to proceed with design work and acquisition of right-of-way for the S.E. 14th Street and Hartford Avenue Turn Lane Modifications.

FISCAL IMPACT—

The total construction cost is estimated at \$250,000. U-STEP funds in the amount of \$137,500 (55%) are available. The City's portion of construction costs is \$112,500 (45%). The City will also be responsible for design and construction administration costs, estimated to be \$50,000, which will require a transfer of \$50,000 in G.O. Bonds from Indianola Avenue Connector, CP038, ENG990000, STR129. City funding will be requested in the 2006-07 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for construction costs.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

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. IDOT will fund 55% of the construction costs. The remaining 45% will be funded by the City. 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. Additional traffic has been generated by the James W. Cownie Soccer Complex, along with the overall residential development in the southeast area of Des Moines. In the near future, the Greater South Side Little League Baseball Complex will add to this traffic increase. The soccer complex has twelve full-sized tournament soccer fields, with parking for over 1,200 cars. This year, there were ten 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 the turning vehicles, causing them to back up into the southbound through lane. As the vehicles exit the soccer complex, the westbound lanes of Hartford Avenue approaching SE 14th Street also back up considerably 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. Also on the November 7th agenda is an item to authorize the City Manager to proceed with design and right-of-way acquisition.

There is a strong desire to complete these improvements prior to the U.S. Youth Soccer Association National Championship in July 2006 and prior to the opening of the Greater South Side Little League Baseball Complex.