



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

July 28, 2008

Agenda Item No. 7  
Roll Call No. 08-  
Communication No. 08-449  
Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.  
City Engineer

## AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: 42nd Street & Kingman Boulevard Widening and Signalization - Receiving bids, (8-12-08), and Setting date of hearing, (8-25-08). (Construction Estimate - \$329,314).

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council proceed with construction of this improvement and set dates to receive bids and hold a public hearing, as required by Iowa Code, utilizing the method of financing referenced below. This project consists of minor widening of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in the vicinity of Kingman Boulevard in order to construct northbound and southbound left turning lanes, along with installing traffic signals at the intersection. The project has been approved for state Traffic Safety Improvement Program funding based on the traffic crash history of this intersection. In addition to the above-average accident history, this intersection experiences substantial delay and congestion, for vehicular traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists, especially during the morning and afternoon peak traffic periods. The signal installation will include full pedestrian signals and accommodations to detect bicyclists and will greatly improve both the safety and operating characteristics of this intersection.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$329,314 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: 2008-2009 CIP, Page Traffic-5, City-wide Signals, Channelization, and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091, being: \$300,000 in Iowa DOT Traffic Safety Funds for 100% of construction contract costs only (Max \$300,000), and \$29,314 in G. O. Bonds

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In July of 2006, the City Council authorized that an application be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Kingman Boulevard Traffic Signal/Street Widening Improvements. IDOT has approved \$300,000 of Traffic Safety Improvement Program funds for this project. The remaining costs, including design, inspection, construction, and project administration, are to be funded by the City. This project includes 2-foot widening on each side of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in the vicinity of Kingman Boulevard to construct northbound and southbound left turning lanes, and for installation of traffic signals at the intersection. The project will be constructed within the existing right-of-way; except that small permanent and temporary easements will be required on each of the four corners for grading and construction of signal pole bases, sidewalk, and a retaining wall.

Based on the traffic accident history of this intersection, the project has been approved for state Traffic Safety Improvement Program funding. The intersection of 42<sup>nd</sup> and Kingman had a total of 31 crashes in the 4-year analysis period of 2001-2005 (data from 2004 was not included, since 42<sup>nd</sup> Street was closed then for I-235 bridge construction). Of these 31 crashes, 18 were right-angle type, which are generally correctable by installing traffic signals. In addition to the above-average accident history, this intersection experiences substantial delay and congestion, for vehicular traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists, especially during the morning and afternoon peak traffic periods. Because of the heavy traffic on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, it is very difficult for traffic on Kingman to cross or turn left onto 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Vehicles that back up on Kingman frequently block the path for students walking or biking to Hubbell Elementary School or Roosevelt High School to cross Kingman going to or from their school. The signal installation will include full pedestrian signals and accommodations to detect bicyclists, and will greatly improve both the safety and operating characteristics of this intersection.

Overall, this project will have some impacts to the adjacent residential properties due to their closeness to the street. However, staff has taken great care in the design of this project to minimize those impacts and mitigate them to the greatest extent possible. The street design will use narrower lanes to minimize the width, so the existing 31-foot roadway will only be widened two feet on each side to provide the center left-turn lane. The traffic signals are also being designed to minimize the overall size of the overhead mast arms to better fit the neighborhood character of the intersection, and will include full pedestrian signals as well as sensitive detection for bicycles on Kingman. Staff believes that the proposed improvements at this intersection are necessary to improve the safety and operations of the intersection and that the impacts of the proposed project have been minimized through careful design details.

This project is within the boundaries of two neighborhood groups. The Waveland Park Neighborhood Association is to the west of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and the Drake Neighborhood Association is to the east of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Staff presented this project on October 2, 2007 at a Waveland Park Neighborhood Association meeting and received input on the proposed project. Representatives of both neighborhood groups, as well as property owners adjacent to the project, were invited to attend this meeting. There was an overall consensus of those in attendance at the meeting that this project was necessary and important to improve the overall safety and reduce the congestion and delay at this intersection. However, the property owners on the southwest corner of the intersection expressed strong concerns and objections to both the proposed signals and widening of the street due to the closeness of their house and the impacts to their property. Staff has worked with these property owners and have modified the design to include construction of a limestone wall instead of a modular block wall to save their bushes. The property owners have signed the construction easement. All necessary easements have been obtained except for one easement where there is a dispute over the value of the easement, and not the overall project. Condemnation may be necessary to establish the value of this easement.

There are four trees that will be required to be removed in order to accommodate the pavement widening. Options for planting new trees are very limited due to the relatively narrow width of the remaining border area and the presence of both overhead power lines and large underground utility ducts along the west side of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. However, the project plans will include installation of new trees at locations in close proximity to the project, to replace those that must be removed.

The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the 42nd Street & Kingman Boulevard Widening and Signalization, 06-2007-019. The improvement includes construction of 7" thick PCC pavement widening, 2" HMA overlay, storm sewer, pavement markings, traffic signals, and other incidental items; in accordance with the contract documents, including Plan File Nos. 490-059/101, on 42nd Street from 189 feet south of Kingman Boulevard to 195 feet north of Kingman Boulevard, Des Moines, Iowa.

The estimated construction cost is \$329,314. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the City Engineer's Office.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: April 7, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-548

Action: Approving of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Kingman Boulevard Intersection Improvements, and authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary right-of-way and easements. (Council Communication No. 08-186) Moved by Colman to adopt; refer to the City Manager to review bidding options for high quality landscaping and lights in the area. Motion Carried 5-1-1. Nays: Vlassis. Absent: Cownie.

Date: July 24, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-1472

Action: Traffic Safety Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation for the following projects: (Council Communication No. 06-464) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. (A) Army Post Widening from South Union to SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street. (B) Hickman Road Restriping between 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Merle Hay Road, Including Traffic Signals at 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Hickman Road. (C) 42<sup>nd</sup> Street at Kingman Boulevard Traffic Signal/Street Widening Improvements. (D) Hubbell Avenue and Easton Boulevard Intersection Traffic Signal Upgrading.

### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Date: July 11, 2006

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: The Traffic Safety Committee approved recommendation that minor widening and traffic signals be installed, and that an application be submitted to the IDOT for funding utilizing the Traffic Safety Improvement Program.

### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Anticipated actions include public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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