



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

March 23, 2009

Agenda Item No. 6
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-171
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation Addendum to the Predesign Agreement for Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) Widening at Urbandale Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Addendum to the Predesign Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) for Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) Widening at Urbandale Avenue. The project provides for the installation of left-turn lanes on Merle Hay Road at Urbandale Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$2,360,000 (original estimate \$2,000,000)

Funding Source: Various funding being:

- \$750,000 Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds
- \$400,000 Federal Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program Funds
- \$500,000 State Traffic Safety Improvement Program Funds
- \$390,500 State Department of Transportation USTEP and 3R Funds
- \$319,500 2009-10 CIP, Page Street-24, Merle Hay Road and Urbandale Avenue Intersection Improvements, STR235, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The proposed improvement consists of widening the north and south approaches on Merle Hay Road in order to provide left turn lanes. The current pavement width of 49' would be widened to 65'. A raised median would be installed on Merle Hay Road within the vicinity of the intersection. New traffic signals with backplates would also be installed, including north-south left turn phasing. A 10' clear zone would be established within the limits of the project. This intersection ranked 55th on the state's 2001-2005 "Statewide Intersection Candidate Listing." Due to its high crash experience, this location was previously reviewed in a study that was commissioned by the Iowa DOT Traffic Safety Office.

On March 24, 2008, by Roll Call No. 08-464, the City Council approved the Predesign Agreement for Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) Widening at Urbandale Avenue. The predesign agreement authorized the City to perform the survey, design, environmental clearance, and right-of-way acquisition phases of the project. City staff has completed the survey, preliminary design, and environmental clearance phases of the project, including an updated cost estimate. On January 29, 2009, a public informational meeting for the project was held at Hillis Elementary School.

The total project cost for the widening project was originally estimated to be \$2,000,000. The updated cost estimate for the project, based on preliminary design, is \$2,360,000. \$750,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program funding, \$400,000 in Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program funding, and \$500,000 in Traffic Safety Improvement Program funding have been approved for this project. The remaining costs will be split between the Iowa Department of Transportation (55%) and the City of Des Moines (45%). This addendum to the Predesign Agreement increases the estimated project cost and identifies the various funding sources to be utilized to complete the project. Construction of this project by the Iowa DOT is anticipated in 2010.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 24, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-464

Action: Approving execution of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Predesign Agreement for Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) Widening at Urbandale Avenue. (Council Communication No. 08-158) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 6, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-1486

Action: Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Merle Hay Road and Urbandale Avenue Intersection Improvements, and SE 14th Street and East Indianola Avenue Intersection Improvements. (Council Communication No. 07-477) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: July 23, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-1386

Action: Approving Traffic Safety Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation. (Council Communication No. 07-446) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Normal actions for award of the construction contract for the work.

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