



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date	June 8, 2009
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Agenda Item No.	8
Roll Call No.	<u>09-</u>
Communication No.	<u>09-376</u>
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Traffic Safety Fund Applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Traffic Safety Funds for three projects. The IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for Traffic Safety Fund improvements. The deadline for this year's applications is June 15, 2009. Staff has reviewed various locations and has developed three projects for submittal: Euclid Avenue at 11th/12th Street Traffic Signals; Euclid Avenue at Oxford Street Widening and Traffic Signals; and Euclid Avenue at Cornell Street Widening and Traffic Signals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Proposed Traffic Safety Funding requests are as follows:

- Euclid Avenue at 11th/12th Street Traffic Signals

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$300,000
Total Project Cost	\$340,000
- Euclid Avenue at Oxford Street Widening and Traffic Signals

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$300,000
Total Project Cost	\$345,000
- Euclid Avenue at Cornell Street Widening and Traffic Signals

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$460,000
Total Project Cost	\$525,000

Funding Source: These projects are not included in the current Capital Improvements Program (CIP); however, if TSF funding is approved, the approved projects can be added to the 2009-10, Page Traffic Control Improvements – 5, City-wide Signals, Channelization and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091. Construction would be expected to be accomplished in 2010 or 2011 for the signals at 11th or 12th Street, and in 2011 for the signals and widening at Oxford Street and at Cornell Street.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem. Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in receiving approval of 65 projects and over \$15 million, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until June 15, 2009, for the next programming cycle.

Traffic and Transportation staff has worked with a “multi-disciplinary” team to review the Euclid Avenue corridor between the Des Moines River and East 14th Street. The team consisted of city and IDOT engineering, law enforcement, neighborhoods, schools, and also Traffic Safety Committee representatives. Meetings were held over the past 2 months, during which time the crash statistics were reviewed and various alternatives were discussed. The crash rate along this corridor for the 5-year period (2003-2007) was determined to be considerably higher than the statewide average for similar roadways. This segment has a crash rate of 942 crashes per hundred million vehicle-miles (HMVM). The statewide average for similar roadways is 297 crashes / HMVM for the same time period. There were also five fatalities along Euclid Avenue during this time.

As a result of these meetings and the high crash history, the multi-disciplinary team has recommended that the following projects be submitted to IDOT for the next Traffic Safety Fund cycle. At their May 12, 2009 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee unanimously approved the team’s recommendations, including submitting these three traffic signal projects.

1. Euclid Avenue at 11th/12th Street Traffic Signals -- This project would install traffic signals on Euclid Avenue at either 11th or 12th Streets. A meeting is scheduled with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association on June 2, 2009, to discuss the preferred location. The new signals would be interconnected with those at 6th and Euclid. The estimated project cost is \$340,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$300,000, covering the construction costs, would be requested.
2. Euclid Avenue at Oxford Street Widening and Traffic Signals -- This project would involve minor widening of Euclid to allow installation of a left-turn lane on Euclid Avenue between Cambridge Street and 2nd Avenue. Traffic signals would be installed at the intersection of Oxford and Euclid. The estimated project cost is \$345,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$300,000, covering the construction costs, would be requested.
3. Euclid Avenue at Cornell Street Widening and Traffic Signals -- This project would involve minor widening on Euclid Avenue between Cambridge and Columbia Streets to allow installation of a left-turn lane on Euclid Avenue at Cornell Street. The existing traffic signals would be upgraded at the intersection of Euclid and Cornell. The estimated cost for this project is \$525,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$460,000, covering the construction costs, would be requested.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): Traffic Safety Committee

Date: May 12, 2009

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: A motion was made by Jim Windsor to approve the combination of staff's recommendations from the Euclid Avenue Traffic Study (New Business Item 3) and approve the submittal of the three projects to the Iowa DOT in June 2009 for Traffic Safety Funding consideration (New Business Item 4); seconded by Kevin Williamson. Motion passed unanimously.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of project agreements with IDOT.

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