

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: April 25, 2011
	Agenda Item No. 8 Roll Call No. <u>11-0654</u> Communication No. <u>11-252</u> Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E. City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services between the City of Des Moines and Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the SE Connector – Relocation of Norfolk Southern tracks.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services between the City of Des Moines and Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the relocation of the Norfolk Southern tracks in the vicinity of SE 14th Street

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$50,000

Funding Source: 2011-2012 CIP, Page Street Improvements - 35, STR219, Southeast Connector – SE 6th Street to SE 14th Street.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The preferred alternative for the Southeast Connector included a major at-grade rail crossing with the Norfolk Southern Railway as the roadway crosses under the SE 14th Street viaduct. As the rail crossing was being negotiated with the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, additional alternatives were discussed that would eliminate the at-grade rail crossing, resulting in a major improvement for both the Southeast Connector and the railroad. By re-locating the rail line to nearby abandoned rail corridors, the railroad is able to continue serving their current customers and eliminate the liability of adding crossings of the Southeast Connector, SE 15th Street and the trail.

The relocation of the railroad can be accomplished at approximately the same overall construction costs, but will eliminate the operation and maintenance and long term liability of the crossings. The Southeast Connector construction schedule will be modified to accommodate the railway design and construction process. The new schedule includes beginning work in 2012 and completion in late 2013. The schedule is tied to the railroad relocation by Norfolk Southern.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 8, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1823

Action: [Approving](#) Supplemental Agreement No. 8 to the Southeast Connector Professional Services Agreement with Kirkham Michael & Associates to provide additional design services for the Southeast Connector project – SE 9th Street to SE 14th/15th Street, not to exceed \$116,744. ([Council Communication No. 10-667](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 26, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-137

Action: [Authorizing](#) notification of the City's preferred alternative for the Southeast Connector. (Council Communication No. 09-031) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Negotiate and execute agreement for the final design and construction of the relocated Norfolk Southern tracks to facilitate the Southeast Connector project

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