



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

<b>Date:</b>	May 23, 2011
<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>11-863</u></b>
<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>11-307</u></b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer</b>

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving FY2013 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 FY2013 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, 2011. Staff has reviewed various locations and has developed three projects for submittal: Beaver and Urbandale Intersection Roundabout; East 4th Street Traffic Signals at Court Avenue/ Walnut Street; and Citywide School Flasher System Upgrade.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Traffic Safety Funding requests are as follows:

1. Beaver and Urbandale Intersection Roundabout

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$250,000
Iowa Clean Air Attainment Funds	\$600,000 (approved)
Total Project Cost	\$1,300,000
2. East 4<sup>th</sup> Street Traffic Signals at Court Avenue/ Walnut Street

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$200,000
Total Project Cost	\$230,000
3. Citywide School Flasher System Upgrade

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$180,000
Total Project Cost	\$225,000

## 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 71 projects and over \$16.5 million, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until June 15, 2011, for the next programming cycle.

Traffic and Transportation staff has reviewed various projects, and recommends that the following three be submitted for funding:

1. Beaver and Urbandale Intersection Roundabout: This project would consist of the installation of a modern roundabout at the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue. This improvement is part of the Beaver Avenue Streetscape Concept Plan that was approved by City Council on June 28, 2010. The existing traffic signal installation would be removed. On all approaches to the roundabout, the lanes will be reduced to a single point of entry. Traffic entering the roundabout will yield on their approach, first to any pedestrians that are crossing through the designated crosswalk, and second to any vehicles that are already within the circular roadway.

The estimated project cost is \$1,300,000. The IDOT has already approved \$600,000 of Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program funds for this project. Traffic Safety funds in the amount of \$250,000 will be requested from IDOT.

2. East 4th Street Traffic Signals at Court Avenue/Walnut Street: This project consists of installing permanent traffic signals at the intersections of E. 4th Street with Walnut Street and with Court Avenue. There are temporary signals currently in place at these two locations, that were installed as part of the 2nd Avenue Storm Sewer Project due to expected detour traffic along E. 4th Street. It is planned that these signals will remain in place until permanent signals can be funded and installed. The total project is estimated to be \$230,000, with the construction portion of \$200,000 being requested from State Traffic Safety Funds.

3. Citywide School Flasher System Upgrade: This project will replace and upgrade the city's existing School Flasher Control System. The current system was installed over 20 years ago, and does not allow verification that the sign has been energized. The operating software has become obsolete and has no vendor technical support. The equipment parts are hard to repair or replace, and the system is difficult to program and maintain. The new system would provide for two-way communications with more reliability and flexibility in operation. The City would request that \$180,000 of State Traffic Safety Funds be approved for the purchase of the equipment. The total project cost is estimated at \$225,000.

The Beaver and Urbandale Roundabout project is currently in the 2011-2012 CIP, "Streetscape Improvements" project, page Street Improvements-41, STR231. The remaining two projects are not included in the current Capital Improvements Program (CIP); however, if Traffic Safety Funding is approved, the approved projects can be added to the 2012-13 CIP, Page Street Improvements – 46, Traffic Signals, Channelization and School Crossings, TFC091. If funding is approved, construction would be expected to be accomplished in 2012 or 2013.

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

Date: August 9, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1331

Action: [City](#) Manager to submit an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Fund Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Beaver Avenue/Urbandale Avenue Intersection Roundabout, \$600,000. ([Council Communication No. 10-487](#)) Moved by Griess to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: June 28, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1094

Action: [Approving](#) Beaver Avenue Streetscape Concept Plan. ([Council Communication No. 10-382](#)) Moved by Griess to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: May 11, 2011

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: A motion was made by Scott Galenbeck to approve staff's recommendation to submit three projects to the Iowa Department of Transportation for consideration in their Traffic Safety Improvement Program; seconded by Gabriel Carnes. Motion passed unanimously.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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