



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date:	July 23, 2012
Agenda Item No.	6
Roll Call No.	<u>12-1148</u>
Communication No.	<u>12-399</u>
Submitted by:	Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving FY2014 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 FY2014 Traffic Safety Funds for four (4) projects. The IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for Traffic Safety Fund improvements. The deadline for this year’s applications is August 15, 2012. Staff has reviewed various locations and has developed four projects for submittal: East 30th Street and Dean Avenue Intersection Widening, S.E. 30th Street and Scott Avenue Intersection Widening, East 14th Street and East Euclid Avenue Intersection Modification, and East Euclid Avenue and Dixon Street Traffic Signal Upgrade.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Traffic Safety Funding requests are as follows:

1. East 30th Street and Dean Avenue Intersection Widening

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$500,000
Total Project Cost	\$700,000

2. S.E. 30th Street and Scott Avenue Intersection Widening

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$100,000
Total Project Cost	\$500,000

3. East 14th Street and East Euclid Avenue Intersection Modification

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$200,000
Total Project Cost	\$230,000

4. East Euclid Avenue and Dixon Street Traffic Signal Upgrade

Traffic Safety Funds Requested	\$150,000
Total Project Cost	\$180,000

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 75 projects and over \$17.5 million, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2012 for the next programming cycle.

Traffic and Transportation staff has reviewed various projects, and recommends that the following four (4) be submitted for funding:

1. East 30th Street and Dean Avenue Intersection Widening. This project would consist of widening the Dean Avenue approaches to the intersection to provide for left-turn lanes both directions, along with a westbound right-turn lane. The lanes on East 30th Street would be restriped to provide for north-south left-turning lanes. Upgraded traffic signals would also be installed. The project is requested as a result of the Union Pacific Railroad's request to close at-grade street crossings of their tracks at SE 34th and SE 36th Streets. The total project cost is estimated to be \$700,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$500,000 will be requested.
2. S.E. 30th Street and Scott Avenue Intersection Widening. This project would consist of widening the south leg of the intersection to provide for left-turning lanes in both directions on S.E. 30th Street. Upgraded traffic signals would also be installed. The project is requested as a result of the Union Pacific Railroad's request to close at-grade street crossings of their tracks at SE 34th and SE 36th Streets. The total project cost is estimated to be \$500,000. Traffic Safety Funds in the amount of \$100,000 will be requested.

The exact improvements to mitigate the area residents concerns regarding the requested closures of SE 34th and SE 36th Street are still being discussed with area residents and the Union Pacific Railroad. The primary concerns from the area residents were related to access during flooding, access during fair, having an open north-south connection across the tracks, and emergency access. We had proposed the improvements at S.E. 30th/Dean and S.E. 30th/Scott in an effort to address those concerns. At a recent public meeting, staff heard that perhaps flooding and a new north-south connection across the tracks were the most important. We are requesting to move forward with approval to submit a grant application as at this time, we are not certain on what the improvements will be, but if we continue forth with pursuing this grant, it will ensure all options are still available.

3. East 14th Street and East Euclid Avenue Intersection Modification. This project would consist of removing the existing island on the northeast corner of the intersection, and reducing the corresponding curb radius on this corner. Upgraded traffic signals would be included for this quadrant of the intersection. This project will reduce the amount of traffic signal maintenance required at this intersection by relocating the existing island-mounted traffic signal pole to a safer location behind the new curb. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$230,000, of which \$200,000 will be requested from Traffic Safety Funds.
4. East Euclid Avenue and Dixon Street Traffic Signal Upgrade. This project would consist of upgrading the existing traffic signals to provide improved overhead indications along with new east-west left-turning signals. The total project cost is estimated to be \$180,000, of which \$150,000 will be requested from Traffic Safety Funds.

The East 30th Street projects have been included in the current CIP. The other two (2) projects are not included in the current Capital Improvements Program (CIP); however, if Traffic Safety Funding is

approved, the projects would be recommended for consideration in the FY 2013-14 CIP. If funding is approved, construction would be expected to be accomplished in 2013 or 2014.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: July 10, 2012

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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