

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: April 8, 2013
	Agenda Item No. 9 Roll Call No. <u>13-0540</u> Communication No. <u>13-167</u> Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to notify Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) of Request for a Voluntary Termination of the Traffic Safety Program Agreement and withdrawal of the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program Application for the Construction of the Single-Lane Roundabout at the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Early studies of the Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue intersection suggested that a single-lane roundabout would help improve intersection safety and traffic flow and this concept was initially supported by local business owners and residents. Funding agreements were received to construct the roundabout; however, before final project development, a petition in opposition to the establishment of the Beaverdale Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) was received. After meeting with property owners, both for and against the project, the City Manager recommended that the project be amended to remove the roundabout in favor of more traditional intersection improvements and signalization. Consequently, the funding agreement and application for the roundabout needs to be withdrawn.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Reduction of \$950,000 in grant funding due to deletion of the roundabout.

Funding Source: 2013-2014 CIP, Page Street-5, STR245, Beaver Avenue Streetscape

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

During the summer of 2009, public input meetings were held with residents, businesses, property owners and stakeholders regarding conceptual plans for the Beaver Avenue Streetscape and Urbandale Avenue intersection improvement. Further public meetings were held during the summer of 2010 regarding the conceptual plans, and polling results after the meetings showed residents, businesses, property owners and stakeholders were largely in favor of proposed Beaver Avenue Streetscape plan with a roundabout at the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue. The Beaverdale Neighborhood Association and Beaverdale Business Coalition further endorsed the streetscape plan with a roundabout option, leading to City Council approval of the streetscape plan with a roundabout as the preferred option on June 28, 2010.

In May of 2011, the City Council authorized that an application be submitted to IDOT for Traffic Safety Improvement Program funds to remove the existing signalized intersection and construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue. In August of

2012, City Council authorized the execution of an agreement with IDOT for \$350,000 in funding for the roundabout construction.

In August of 2010, the City Council authorized that an application be submitted to IDOT for Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program funds to remove the existing signalized intersection and construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Beaver Avenue and Urbandale Avenue. IDOT has proposed an agreement for \$600,000 in funding for construction of a roundabout.

In November and December of 2011, a public input meeting and an online survey were conducted regarding a revised concept plan, intersection improvement options and the Beaverdale SSMID for all residents, businesses, property owners and stakeholders. A majority of respondents to the online survey showed support for the roundabout concept resulting in the City Council voting to approve the revised streetscape concept plan with a roundabout as the preferred option on January 23, 2012.

On August 27, 2012, the City Council approved the consultant contract with Genus Landscape Architects for design and construction phase services for the streetscape project with a roundabout, authorized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Beaverdale Betterment Coalition for implementation of the streetscape project, and received petitions from property owners to establish a SSMID.

On October 30, 2012, the City Clerk received a petition from several Beaverdale property owners in opposition to the proposed streetscape project and requested that the SSMID not be established. Because the petition in opposition to the SSMID contained signatures which together represent ownership of property with an assessed value of 40 percent or more of the assessed value of all property within the proposed district, the receipt of that petition barred the City from taking any further action on the establishment of the SSMID. This prompted the suspension of any further work on the project until a clear direction could be identified.

In order to determine how to proceed with the project, a meeting was called with property owners, both for and against the project, as well as the area City Council representatives on November 14, 2012, to discuss how to move the project forward. Those in attendance of the meeting were given the opportunity to voice their opinion of the streetscape project, as well as their recommended changes. The points of support for the project included traffic and pedestrian safety, beautification, and economic development, while the points of opposition were loss of business during construction, limited parking, and disapproval of the roundabout.

As discussion wrapped up there were some common themes that began to emerge, however many questions remained. The following is a list of those common themes:

- Streetscape enhancements are welcomed and supported by nearly everyone.
- Pedestrian safety remains a high priority and improved cross-walks are needed.
- The intersection at Beaver and Urbandale needs to be improved, but a roundabout is not a solution that most property owners within the district will support.
- Disruption to businesses and traffic need to be minimized as much as possible during construction.
- The establishment of a SSMID is something that can be supported by property owners if consensus can be reached on an alternative design for the Beaver and Urbandale intersection.
- Small group meetings with commercial property owners that are directly impacted by the project are more effective and preferred over open public forums.

After the November 14, 2012 meeting with property owners, the project was amended to remove the roundabout in favor of more traditional intersection improvements and signalization, and the existing

consultant agreement was revised to reflect the project change in scope. Consequently, the Traffic Safety Improvements Program agreement needs to be voluntarily terminated, and the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program funding application needs to be withdrawn.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Date: November 5, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1736](#)

Action: [Closing](#) the public hearing and withdrawing consideration of establishing the Beaverdale Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID). ([Council Communication No. 12-560](#)) Moved by Griess to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 8, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1563](#)

Action: [On](#) Petition to Establish the Beaverdale Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID), (11-5-12). ([Council Communication No. 12-531](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 27, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1384](#)

Action: [Memorandum](#) of Understanding with the Beaverdale Betterment Coalition for implementation. ([Council Communication No. 12-459](#)) Moved by Coleman to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 27, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1386](#)

Action: [Execution](#) of Iowa Department of Transportation Agreement to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Beaver and Urbandale Avenue. ([Council Communication No. 12-447](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 27, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0315](#)

Action: [From](#) Beaverdale area businesses to speak regarding next steps for moving the Beaverdale Streetscape forward. Moved by Griess to refer to the City Manager to arrange a meeting with members of the business community and Neighborhood Association to discuss the streetscape guidelines and funding; and refer to the Legal Department to prepare formal documents to create the SSMID. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 23, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0108](#)

Action: [Receive](#) and file update from City staff regarding the Beaver Avenue Streetscape Project. ([Council Communication No. 12-039](#)) Moved by Griess to receive and file. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: May 23, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-0863](#)

Action: [Approving](#) FY2013 Traffic Safety Fund Applications to Iowa Department of Transportation: ([Council Communication No. 11-307](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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.

Date: March 9, 2009

Roll Call Number: [09-367](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with Genus Landscape Architects, P.C. for professional services for the Beaver Avenue Streetscape, not to exceed \$169,885. ([Council Communication No. 09-140](#)) 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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