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|  <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p> | Date: | November 7, 2016 |
| | Agenda Item No. | 45 |
| | Roll Call No. | <u>16-1928</u> |
| | Communication No. | <u>16-645</u> |
| | Submitted by: | Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer |

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Howe Elementary and Windsor Elementary Pedestrian Crossing Concept Plans and authorizing City staff to proceed with acquisition of necessary right of way and easements.

SYNOPSIS:

On October 24, 2016, by Roll Call 16-1808 the City Council approved the Park Avenue Elementary Plan as presented and referred Howe and Windsor Elementary plans to the City manager for review and recommendation, and to discuss the plans with the Des Moines Public Schools, and to bring back this item at the November 7th Council meeting. The following options are presented for Council consideration:

- 1) Approve the concept plans as presented on October 24, 2016 for the Howe Elementary and Windsor Elementary pedestrian crossings.
- 2) Rescind Roll Call 16-1808 approved on October 24, 2016 and direct staff to further evaluate revised concepts:
 - a. Howe Elementary - add a signalized intersection at SE 8th Street and Indianola Avenue and remove the proposed high-intensity activated cross-walk (HAWK) beacon signal and proposed raised median.
 - b. Windsor Elementary – remove proposed raised median.

Revise project schedule to include construction in 2018. Authorize intermediate maintenance repairs to allow all three (3) bridges to remain in service until 2018. The revised concepts will be presented for Council consideration in 2017.

- 3) Rescind Roll Call 16-1808 approved on October 24, 2016, reject the concept plans presented on October 24, 2016 for the Howe Elementary, Park Avenue Elementary, and Windsor Elementary pedestrian crossings, and authorize the City Engineer to proceed with maintenance repairs on the three (3) existing pedestrian bridges.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimated costs are:

- Option 1: \$1,075,000
- Option 2: To be determined by further evaluation.
- Option 3: \$800,000

Funding Source: Various funding sources as follows:

- Option 1: \$580,000 2016-2017 CIP, Page Bridge-4, City-wide Bridges, BR003, \$495,000 Des Moines Public Schools.
- Option 2: To be determined by further evaluation.
- Option 3: \$800,000 2016-2017 CIP, Page Bridge-4, City-wide Bridges, BR003.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

City staff and Des Moines Public Schools staff identified the need to evaluate the existing pedestrian bridges over Indianola Avenue near Howe Elementary, over SW 9th Street near Park Avenue Elementary, and over University Avenue near Windsor Elementary based on continued deterioration of the bridges and ongoing maintenance concerns. The existing bridges do not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements due to the steep grade of the bridge ramps.

On August 11, 2014, by Roll Call No. 14-1208, City Council approved a Professional Service Agreement with Shuck-Britson, Inc. to complete a Pedestrian Bridge Structural Evaluation of the three (3) pedestrian bridges. The evaluation considered short-term repairs, full replacement, and removal with associated at-grade improvements.

The following options are presented for Council consideration:

- 1) Approving the concept plans as presented on October 24, 2016 for the Howe Elementary and Windsor Elementary pedestrian crossings.
 - City staff and Des Moines Public Schools staff recommend bridge removal with associated at-grade enhancements based on:
 - Future maintenance needs;
 - Adjoining property impacts;
 - Additional out-of-distance pedestrians would need to travel due to the longer ADA compliant ramps;
 - Life cycle costs;
 - Other elementary schools in Des Moines with similar at-grade crossing situations;
 - Modify and improve pick-up and drop-off areas to reduce need for students to cross street; and
 - Ability to improve/provide safe at-grade crossings.

The recommended at-grade enhancements at the school sites include:

Howe Elementary

- Add a 6-foot wide raised median on Indianola Avenue in front of the school property to promote slower traffic and to provide a refuge to pedestrians crossing Indianola Avenue.
- Add a HAWK traffic signal with a new painted crosswalk for pedestrians to cross Indianola Avenue.
- Widen and reconstruct sidewalks on both sides of Indianola Avenue and build new sidewalk connection to the school.

- Narrow the travel lanes and add speed feedback signs on Indianola Avenue to encourage slower traffic.

Windsor Elementary

- Add a 6-foot wide raised median on University Avenue in front of the school property to promote slower traffic and to provide a refuge to pedestrians crossing University Avenue (requires minor widening of University Avenue).
- Add a HAWK traffic signal with a new painted crosswalk for pedestrians to cross University Avenue.
- Widen and reconstruct sidewalks in the vicinity of the HAWK signal.
- Add speed feedback signs on University Avenue to encourage slower traffic.
- Extend the existing bus inset on University Avenue to reduce congestion caused by buses blocking University Avenue.

Extensive public outreach was completed to gain input from parent/teacher groups as well as members of the neighborhoods where the bridges are located. The following meetings were held to present the findings and recommendations of staff to date:

January 12, 2016 – Park Avenue Elementary

January 14, 2016 – Howe Elementary

January 21, 2016 – Windsor Elementary

February 18, 2016 – Gray's Lake Neighborhood Association

March 1, 2016 – Indianola Hills Neighborhood Association

March 3, 2016 – Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

March 8, 2016 – Waveland Woods Neighborhood Association

September 22, 2016 – Howe Elementary (Neighborhood invited)

September 27, 2016 – Park Avenue Elementary (Neighborhoods invited)

October 6, 2016 – Windsor Elementary (Neighborhoods invited)

An informational presentation was given to the Des Moines School Board on September 20, 2016.

The majority of the attendees at the public input meetings expressed concern for student safety crossing the street, but were understanding of staff's recommendation to pursue the at-grade solution. There were about 10 parents who did express the desire to rebuild a pedestrian bridge. Staff responded to the input received by adding additional at-grade improvement elements to address safety related concerns about high traffic speed on the streets. Those additions were presented at the last set of meetings in fall 2016.

- 2) Rescind Roll Call 16-1808 approved on October 24, 2016 and direct staff to further evaluate revised concepts at Howe Elementary and Windsor Elementary, revise project construction to 2018 and authorize intermediate maintenance repairs.
 - The pedestrian crossing at Howe Elementary will be further evaluated to include the addition of a signalized intersection at SE 8th Street and Indianola Avenue and remove the proposed HAWK signal and proposed raised median. The pedestrian crossing at Windsor Elementary will be evaluated and revised to eliminate the proposed raised median. Project construction, including the Park Avenue pedestrian crossing, will be moved to 2018 to allow adequate time for traffic analysis, design, Council consideration, coordination with Des Moines Public Schools and neighborhoods and

property acquisition. Intermediate maintenance repairs of all three (3) bridges is required to allow the structures to remain in service until 2018. Revised concepts will be presented for Council consideration in 2017.

- 3) Rescind Roll Call 16-1808 approved on October 24, 2016 and reject the concept plans presented on October 24, 2016 for the Howe Elementary, Park Avenue Elementary, and Windsor Elementary pedestrian crossings, and authorizing the City Engineer perform maintenance repairs on the three (3) existing pedestrian bridges.
 - The third option for Council consideration involves performing maintenance repairs to the three (3) existing pedestrian bridges to extend the life of the existing bridges approximately 10 years. Maintenance repairs include patching and replacing isolated sections of deficient concrete, replacing deficient sections of fencing on the bridge, and other miscellaneous repairs.

The Des Moines Public School staff was consulted regarding consideration of additional options. The Des Moines Public School staff want the safest option implemented.

The schedules for Option 1 and Option 3 include design during fall and winter 2016, bidding in February 2017, and construction summer 2017. Option 1 or Option 3 improvements would begin immediately after school is over, and the selected contractor would be required to be substantially complete with the improvements prior to the first day of school in August 2017.

The schedule for Option 2 includes authorizing intermediate maintenance repairs to allow all three (3) bridges to remain in service until 2018, presenting the revised concepts for Council consideration in 2017, and construction of approved concept in 2018.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 24, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-1808http://www.dmgov.org/government/citycouncil/rollcalls/2014/14-1208.pdf](http://www.dmgov.org/government/citycouncil/rollcalls/2014/14-1208.pdf)

Action: [Approving](#) the Howe Elementary, Park Avenue Elementary, and Windsor Elementary Pedestrian Bridge concept plans and authorizing City staff to proceed with acquisition of necessary right of way and easements. ([Council Communication No. 16-619](#)) Moved by Gatto to approve Park Avenue Elementary plan as presented and refer Howe and Windsor Elementary plans to the City Manager for review and recommendation, and to discuss the plans with the Des Moines Public Schools, and to bring back this item at the November 7th Council Meeting. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Approval of a funding agreement with Des Moines Public Schools.
- Normal Council actions for construction plan preparation.

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