


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	18-623	Meeting:	November 19, 2018
	Agenda Item:	41B	Roll Call:	18-1933
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan. On December 4, 2017, by Roll Call No. 17-2092, Council voted to receive and file the Connect Downtown study and refer to the Plan and Zoning Commission for consideration as an element of PlanDSM. This action would incorporate the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- PlanDSM – Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan was adopted by City Council on April 25, 2016, under Roll Call No. 16-0717. PlanDSM specifically recognized the important linkage between land use and transportation planning to develop a sustainable community.
- PlanDSM recommended implementing recommendations of the Walkability Study for Downtown (Connect Downtown) in the Goals and Policies of Transportation Chapter of PlanDSM and identified it as a near-term action step in the Implementation Chapter.
- Connect Downtown included the development of conceptual designs and a prioritized implementation program for changes to downtown streets, along with public outreach and focused stakeholder and downtown business coordination. The study area for this project included the roadways within the boundaries of University Avenue on the north, the rivers on the south, Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to the west, and E 15th Street to the east.
- The traffic modeling project supported the planning project by developing several dynamic traffic models to determine how much change could be made to the downtown street system without introducing an unreasonable amount of delay to the traveling public entering, exiting, and traveling within downtown during the peak hours of the day.

- As presented to Council at the October 30, 2017 work session on Intelligent Transportation Systems, the City must have the ability to actively manage traffic during special events, construction detours, crash events on I-235, and during peak hours at busy intersections if the proposed street and lane reduction changes are made per the recommendations of Connect Downtown. Allocation of resources for proper traffic management and maintenance related to the recommended changes will be critical to the success of any project outlined in the Connect Downtown study.
- If Connect Downtown is implemented as drafted, costs are estimated to include:
 - \$33.5 million (estimated design, construction, and administration costs)
 - \$500,000 per year (estimated contract cost for pavement marking restriping)
 - Additional costs for snow removal/street sweeping (unknown)
 - Additional costs for traffic management (estimated at \$15 million, plus staffing)
- On December 4, 2017, by Roll Call No. 17-2092, Council voted to receive and file the Connect Downtown study and refer to the Plan and Zoning Commission for consideration as an element of PlanDSM.
- On September 6, 2018, Plan and Zoning Commission voted to recommend incorporation of the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 4, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-2092](#)

Action: [Receive](#) and file the Connect Downtown Study and refer to the Plan and Zoning Commission for consideration as an element of PlanDSM and refer to the City Manager for recommendation of funding options. ([Council Communication No. 17-827](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 25, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-0717](#)

Action: [On](#) City-initiated request to consider adoption of “PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow” as an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Moved by Hensley to adopt the plan as presented; refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation regarding: 1. Goal for the City to become carbon neutral by 2040. 2. Reconvening a citizen Sustainability Task Force. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: September 6, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: David Courard-Hauri made a motion for approval of Part A) To incorporate the Connect Downtown study as an element of MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan, approval of Part B) Amendment to the PlanDSM - Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan to adopt the MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan as an element and approval of Part C) Amendments to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan. Motion passed 12-1.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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