


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-053	Meeting:	February 8, 2021
	Agenda Item:	17	Roll Call:	[]
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the 34th Street and Leado Avenue Intersection Improvements Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary right-of-way and easements for the 34th Street and Leado Avenue Intersection Improvements Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain. This action is required by Iowa law before the City can initiate the property acquisition process under eminent domain.

FISCAL IMPACT:

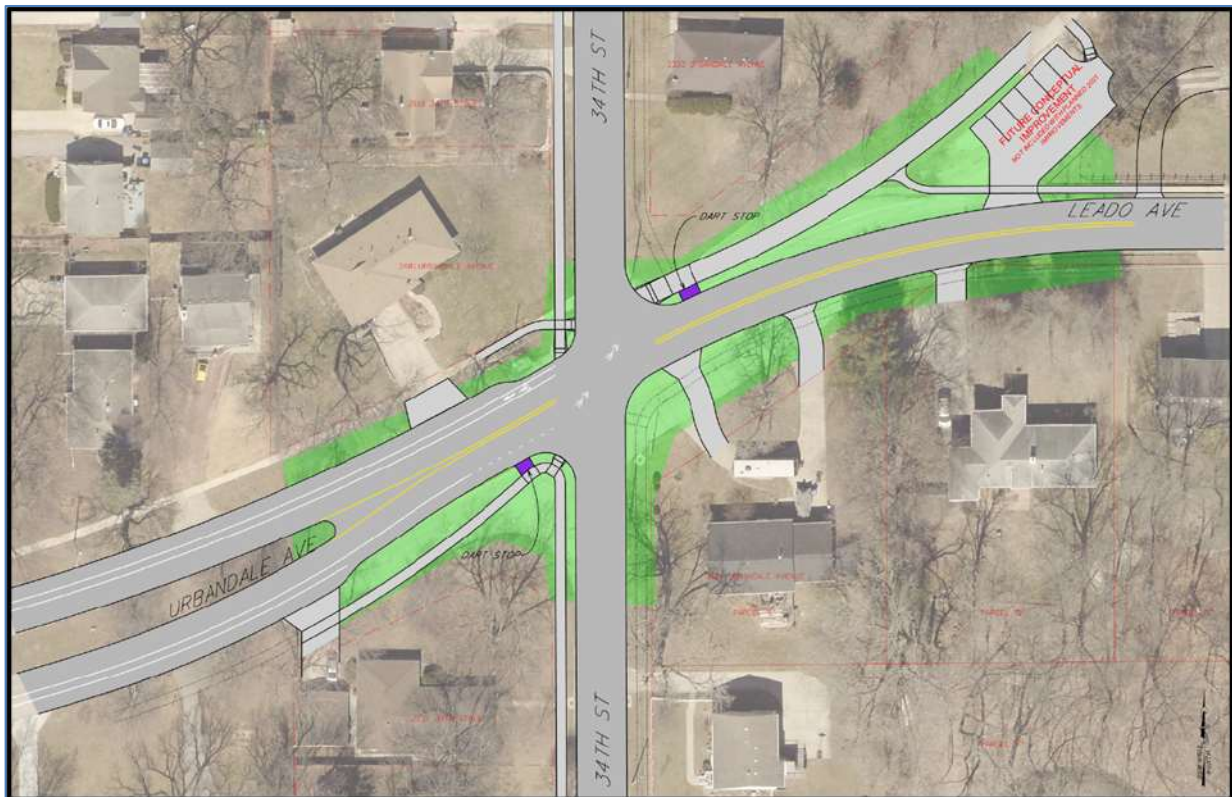
Amount: To be determined after final design is completed.

Funding Source: 2020-21 CIP, Page Street Improvements – 40, Sidewalks – School and Priority Routes, SW081

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

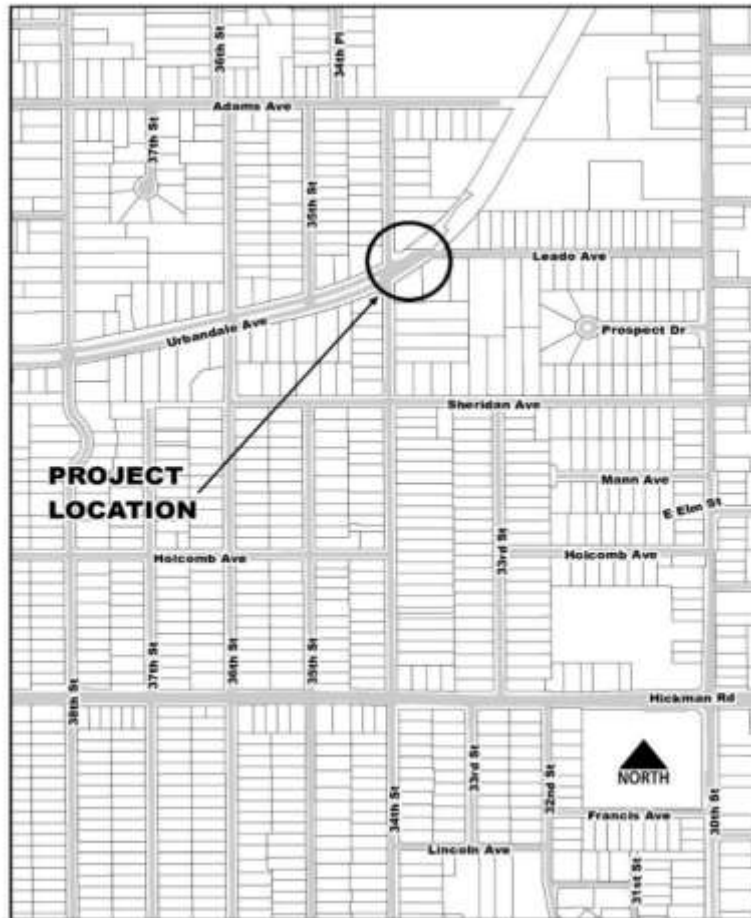
- In response to a crash that occurred at 3219 Leado Avenue on January 1, 2020, the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association, area residents, and Councilmember Gray requested that City staff review traffic data and roadway geometrics on Urbandale Avenue/Leado Avenue in the area of 34th Street. The property owner at 3219 Leado Avenue also contacted City staff about his fence being struck in the recent crashes.
- A review of crash data for a 5-year period (2015-2019) was done in the vicinity of the intersection of Urbandale Avenue, Leado Avenue, and 34th Street. Five (5) crashes have occurred in this vicinity, including the reported crash occurring on January 1, 2020. Four (4) of the five (5) crashes were attributed to reckless driving and/or excessive speeds.
- As part of the City's initiative to fill sidewalk gaps in the City, a new sidewalk is proposed along the west side of 34th Street between Holcomb Avenue and Adams Avenue, which will provide a connection to DART Route 14, connection to the Inter Urban Trail and Beaverdale Park, and a continuous sidewalk stretch along 34th Street. The proposed sidewalk construction along 34th Street, including at Urbandale Avenue, presents an opportunity to make geometric improvements at the intersection of Urbandale Avenue, Leado Avenue, and 34th Street.

- City staff developed a concept, shown below for geometric improvements to the intersection of Urbandale Avenue, Leado Avenue, and 34th Street, which provides the following benefits:
 - Eastbound traffic on Urbandale Avenue are transitioned from a median-separated roadway to a 2-lane roadway prior to the intersection of 34th Street (instead of current situation of transitioning in the intersection) to alleviate the concern for vehicles running off the roadway.
 - Urbandale Avenue/Leado Avenue roadway alignment curve is more defined to alleviate the concern for vehicles running off the roadway.
 - The crossing distance across Urbandale Avenue/Leado Avenue for pedestrians is greatly reduced.



- A public meeting was held the evening of July 23, 2020 to present the concept and receive feedback from the public, including residents in the vicinity of the intersection. Overall, very favorable feedback was received for the proposed intersection improvements.
- This project includes geometric intersection improvements to the area that intersects Urbandale Avenue, Leado Avenue, and 34th Street. The project also includes filling in missing sidewalk segments along the west side of 34th street between Holcomb Avenue and Adams Avenue and on the north side of Sheridan Avenue between 33rd Street and 34th Street. These sidewalk improvements will provide long segments of continuous sidewalk along 34th Street and Sheridan Avenue, and will also provide connections to DART Route 14, the Inter Urban Trail, and Beaverdale Park.

- At this time, one (1) partial acquisition, one (1) permanent retaining wall easement, and two (2) temporary construction easements are needed from a total of two (2) property owners for construction of the intersection improvements. Relocation assistance will not be required for this project.
- This project is anticipated to be constructed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 (fall 2021 or spring 2022).



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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