


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-130	Meeting:	March 6, 2023
	Agenda Item:	36	Roll Call:	23-0311
	Submitted by:	Michael Ludwig, Interim Development Services Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving agreement with Iowa State University of Science and Technology (ISU) for application of technology-based solutions to assess property conditions in the City of Des Moines.

SYNOPSIS:

The City will partner with ISU on a project to explore technology-based solutions to assess property conditions. This project will be conducted under an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2018 to coordinate efforts between the City and ISU to connect problems in the community to research and education projects.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City and ISU have an existing MOU signed in 2018 to facilitate communication and coordination necessary to implement research and educational projects, where future projects could require subsequent agreements between the parties and may be subject to City Council approval.
- The City has a need to evaluate the external condition of residential properties and wishes to explore technology-based solutions, specifically Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques, as an alternative for efficient and accurate assessment.
- The Translational AI Center at ISU has a unique skill set and expertise to develop artificial intelligence technology solutions and ISU desires to explore such technology within the context of community planning.
- The City and ISU wish to collaborate on a project that will design, deploy and evaluate an AI-based approach to assess the condition of residential property parcels.
- The AI techniques will involve utilizing computer algorithms to analyze and extract relevant information from street view images.
- City-owned street image data collected in 2022 will be used for the research project.
- The research project will explore the potential to develop a more efficient, objective, cost-effective and expedited process to assess a residential property's external condition.
- A successful methodology would allow the City to deploy it across various geographies for periodic assessments in an expedited timeline.

- Property condition analysis is one (1) of the indicators that informs the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Policy and plans and strategize City investment.
- There is no monetary cost to the City for this research project.
- The project will start on April 1, 2023, and be completed by August 15, 2023.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 25, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1083](#)

Action: [Memorandum](#) of Understanding (MOU) with Iowa State University for research and development of solutions to problems facing the community, continued from June 11 Council meeting. ([Council Communication No. 18-339](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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