


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-230	Meeting:	May 8, 2023
	Agenda Item:	16	Roll Call:	23-0640
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the University Avenue – 39th Street to 48th Street Improvements Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of authorization to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the University Avenue – 39th Street to 48th Street Improvements Project by gift, negotiation, or eminent domain. This action is required by Iowa law before the City can initiate the property acquisition process for this project under eminent domain.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: To be determined after final design is completed.

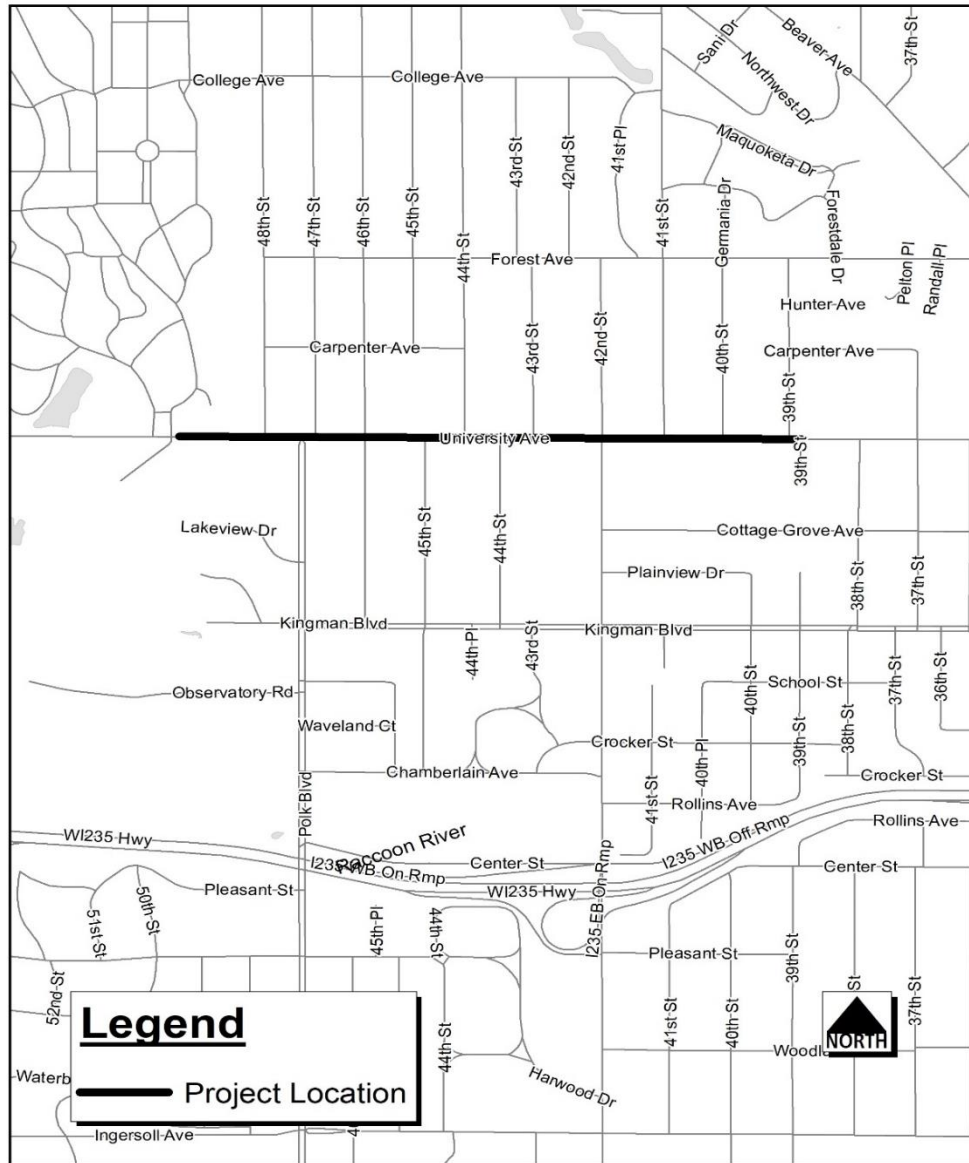
Funding Source: 2023-24 CIP, Page 128, University Avenue – 48th Street to 31st Street, ST275, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 2019, University Avenue from 63rd Street to 55th Street was converted from four (4) lanes to three (3) lanes with a center bidirectional left-turn lane. The pedestrian bridge near Windsor Elementary School was removed and a HAWK (High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk) Beacon and a raised refuge island was installed for pedestrians crossing University Avenue at Windsor Elementary School.
- In 2019, University Avenue from 55th Street to 48th Street was converted from four (4) lanes to three (3) lanes with a center bidirectional left-turn lane. A multi-use trail was also added alongside the Waveland Golf Course.
- In 2020, in coordination with a City sewer separation project and a streetscape planned by Drake University, University Avenue from 31st Street to 25th Street was converted from five (5) lanes to three (3) lanes with a center bidirectional left-turn lane and dedicated on-street bicycle lanes.
- University Avenue from 48th Street to 31st Street is in need of pavement rehabilitation and is proposed for pavement resurfacing. Resurfacing includes milling off the top layer(s) of asphalt pavement and overlaying with new hot-mix asphalt.

- The existing roadway cross-section between 31st Street and 48th Street is a five-lane roadway and based on data collected by City staff, experiences speed well over the posted speed limit. Implementing a road diet, reducing the number of lanes from five (5) to three (3), as part of the resurfacing project has been proven nationally and locally to improve roadway safety (reducing unsafe corridor speeds and vehicular maneuvering/jockeying) and improve multi-modal accessibility (improving pedestrian crossings and allowing for dedicated bicycle facilities). The three-lane roadway will also provide a consistent, right-sized corridor from 25th Street to 63rd Street. The City is also looking to implement some access management improvements at the commercial nodes at Polk Boulevard and 42nd Street to improve safety in those areas.
- A public meeting was held on January 5, 2022, to present the proposed improvements to University Avenue from 31st Street to 48th Street.
- The University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 31st Street to 48th Street includes:
 - Pavement resurfacing.
 - Converting the five (5) lane roadway to three (3) lanes with a center bidirectional left-turn lane and on-street dedicated buffered bicycle lanes.
 - Construction of off-street, separated bicycle facilities at the commercial nodes at Polk Boulevard and 42nd Street.
 - Addition of enhanced pedestrian crossings with refuge islands along the corridor.
 - Access management improvements at the commercial nodes at Polk Boulevard and 42nd Street to improve safety in those areas, including a creating right turn in/out only at 47th Street and removal of two (2) commercial accesses on University Avenue between 41st Street and 42nd Street.
 - Traffic signal replacement at the intersection of University Avenue and Polk Boulevard.
 - Traffic signal modifications at intersection of University Avenue and 42nd Street.
- Storm sewer improvements, planned as part of the Closes Creek Watershed Improvements, are needed along University Avenue between 39th Street and 42nd Street.
- Due to the project scope increasing, the University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 25th Street to 48th Street will be constructed in two (2) phases:
 - University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 25th Street to 39th Street.
 - University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 39th Street to 48th Street.
- The University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 25th Street to 39th Street is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2023.
- The University Avenue Rehabilitation project from 39th Street to 48th Street is anticipated to start construction in the second half of 2024 with completion in the first half of 2026.
- At this time, the total property interests needed for this project consist of 16 temporary construction easements, four (4) permanent easements for storm sewer and surface water

flowage, and three (3) access rights deeds, all to be acquired from 14 separate property owners. Relocation assistance will not be required for these acquisitions.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 8, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-1228](#)

Action: [Approving](#) Professional Services Agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for University Avenue Rehabilitation – 4908 University Avenue to 39th Street, not to exceed \$79,520. ([Council Communication No. 22-371](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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