


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: <b>23-364</b>	Meeting: <b>August 7, 2023</b>
	Agenda Item: <b>9</b>	Roll Call: <b>23-1065</b>
	Submitted by: <b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>	

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvement Project.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT for FY2025 TSIP funding for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvement Project. IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. The maximum request for funding per project is \$500,000. The deadline for this year's application is August 15, 2023.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,075,000 Estimated total project costs

### Funding Source:

- \$500,000 – TSIP Funding Request
- \$575,000 – Remaining amount (pending funding awarded) from 2023-2024 CIP, Page 141, 41st Street and Beaver Avenue, ST292, G.O. Bonds

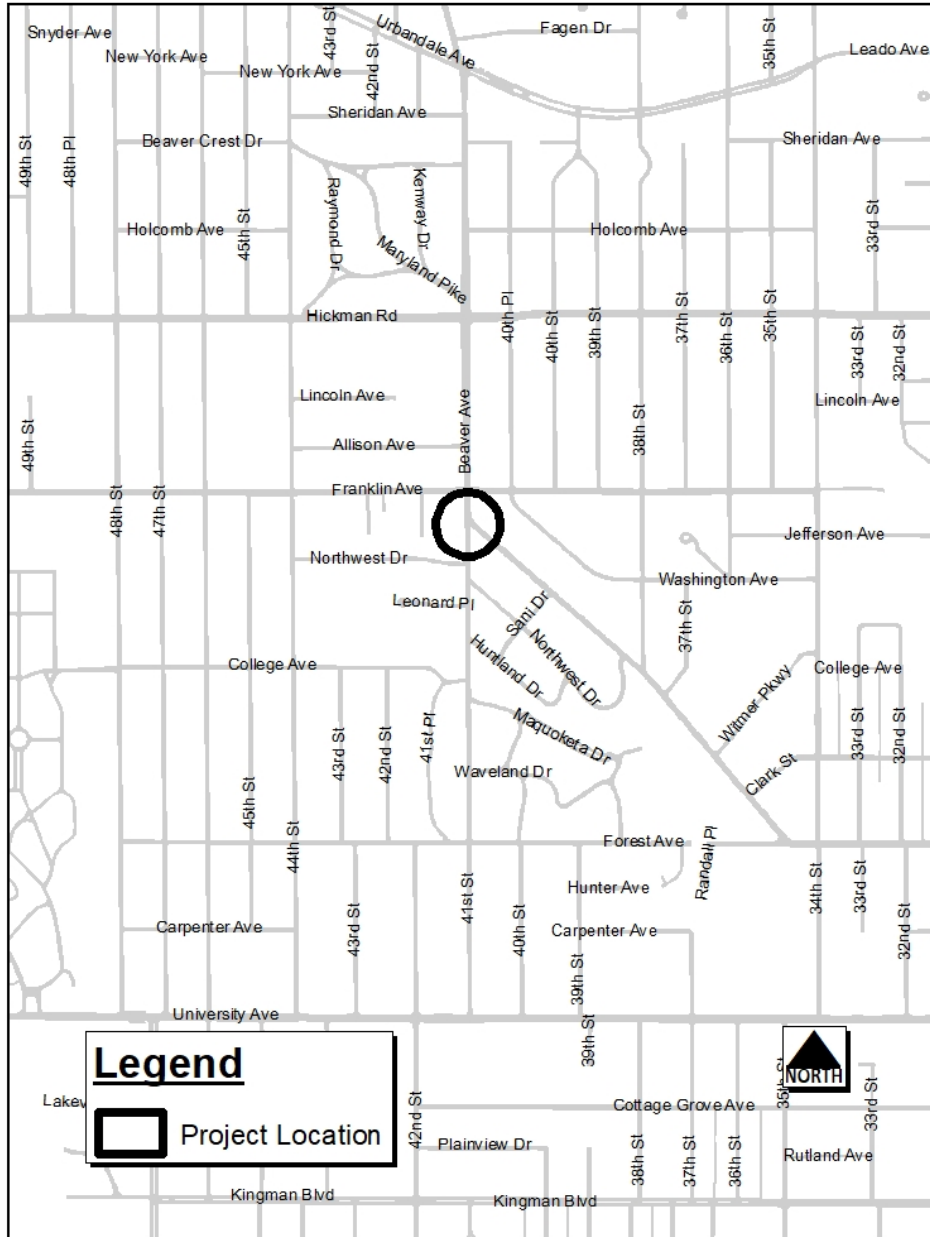
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for statewide traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem. Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in securing funding, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2023, for the next programming cycle.
- Funding requests may be up to \$500,000 per project. Available funding for the TSIP varies by year, but past budgeted funding ranges have been between \$5 million and \$6 million. Historically, the State has received applications for more funding than available.
- Staff has reviewed potential projects and recommends the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvement Project be submitted for TSIP Funds.

- The existing 41st Street and Beaver Avenue intersection's horizontal alignment is on a skew which has caused safety concerns from street users, including difficulty for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists to know if southbound vehicles will turn right (essentially continuing straight) on 41st Street or continue traveling on Beaver Avenue by going around the curve to their left. IDOT determines the potential for crash reduction values for every intersection in Iowa, including county and city roads and streets as well as state routes. IDOT has ranked this intersection as having a "High" potential for crash reduction.
- A traffic study was completed in 2018 to determine how to improve sight distance and fix the skew of the intersection. To improve safety at this intersection, based on the 2018 traffic study, City staff recommend realigning the intersection to a 90-degree T-intersection. The realignment of the intersection would provide additional northbound queueing storage at the Beaver Avenue and Franklin Avenue intersection. Southbound right turning traffic onto 41st Street would be slowed by the turning radius of the realigned intersection. By defining the southbound turning path, more visual clues for gap decision are provided to northbound traffic on 41st Street. Additionally, the pedestrian crossing of 41st Street is reduced from approximately 50 feet to 30 feet. The proposed intersection will limit the exposure for pedestrians as well as bicycles on Beaver Avenue as well as slow southbound traffic going from Beaver Avenue to 41st Street as this now becomes a turning movement rather than a through movement.



- This project will require the full acquisition of one property, one permanent easement, and several temporary easements. The Real Estate Division is in discussions and negotiations with all impacted property owners.
- The estimated project cost is \$1,075,000 with TSIP Funds in the amount of \$500,000 being requested. Receipt of TSIP Funding would provide for construction of the project to start in Fiscal Year 2025.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: May 8, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0639](#)

Action: [Authorization](#) to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements Project. ([Council Communication No. 23-229](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

If approved by IDOT for funding, project agreements would be presented to City Council for consideration.

City staff anticipate actions related to construction, including ordering construction.

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