


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-190	Meeting:	May 6, 2024
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	24-0641
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the intersection improvements of 6th Avenue and Day Street.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of IDOT Agreement No. 2025-TS-005 between the City of Des Moines and IDOT for the 6th Avenue and Day Street intersection improvements, as part of the 6th Avenue Streetscape-Phase 3 project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$3,000,000 Estimated Total Project Costs

Funding Source:

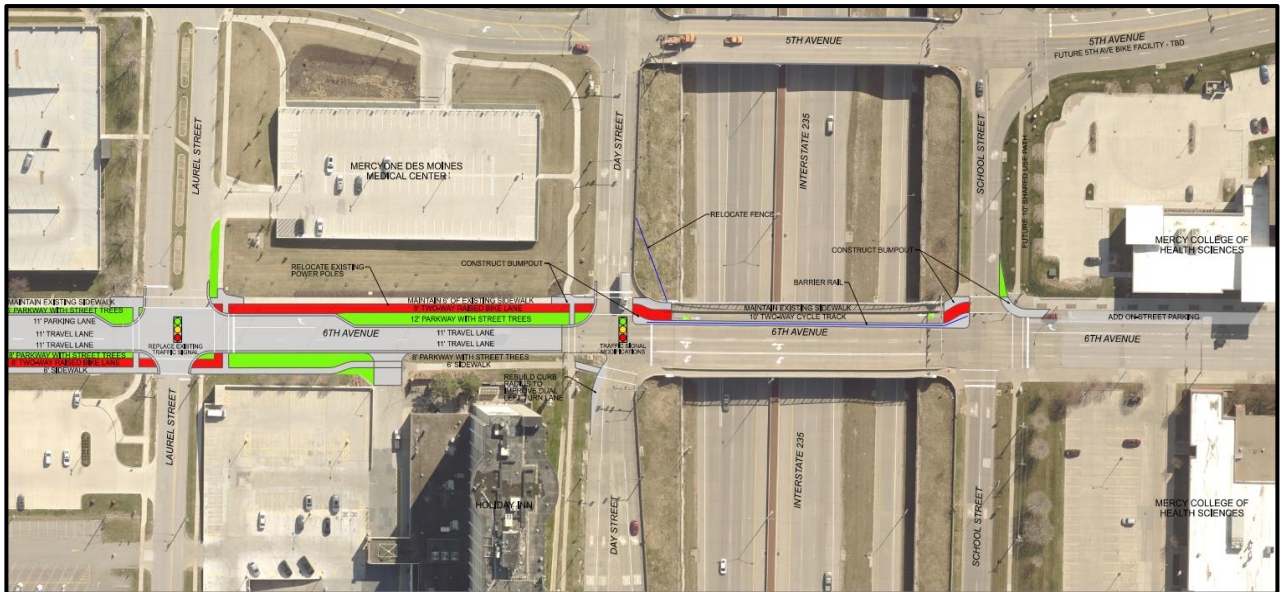
- \$500,000 – Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Funds
- \$2,500,000 – Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 90, 6th Avenue Streetscape, ST266, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The 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.
- Staff has reviewed potential safety improvement projects and recommends the approval of TSIP funds be used for the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street. 6th Avenue is on the High Injury Network (HIN) identified in Des Moines' Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan. According to the IDOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2016-2020, this intersection ranks as the 4th highest intersection for potential crash reduction in the entire state of Iowa and 2nd highest (state-wide) for the category of undivided, low-speed traffic signal-controlled intersections.

- The 6th Avenue bridge over Interstate 235 is owned and maintained by IDOT. Engineering staff has worked with IDOT staff to identify safety improvements to reduce the number and severity of crashes at this intersection. Proposed safety improvements at this intersection include:
 - Narrowing the travel lanes on 6th Avenue from 14 feet wide to 11 feet wide.
 - Reducing lanes on 6th Avenue from three (3) lanes to two (2) lanes by removing the easternmost travel lane.
 - Relocating the existing chain-link fence on the southwest corner of the intersection to improve intersection sight distance.
 - Traffic signal timing modifications.
 - Installing additional traffic signal heads to improve visibility of the traffic signal.
 - Installing backplates with retroreflective borders to traffic signal heads as recommended by the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan.
 - Installing a barrier rail separated two (2)-way cycle track on the 6th Avenue bridge over Interstate-235.
 - Adding curb bump-outs to shorten pedestrian crossing distance and increase visibility of pedestrians.
 - Installing stop bars and crosswalk pavement markings.
- These improvements will be part of the 6th Avenue Streetscape – Phase 3 project planned for construction starting in 2025. This project will be the third and last phase in the revitalization of the 6th Avenue Corridor from the Des Moines River to I-235. The first phase of this project from Hickman Road to College Avenue was completed in 2020. The second phase from College Avenue to University Avenue was completed in 2022.
- The 6th Avenue Streetscape – Phase 3 project, shown conceptually in the graphics below, will include:
 - Narrowing 6th Avenue between University Avenue and Ascension Street, including removing one (1) of the two (2) southbound lanes on 6th Avenue.
 - Narrowing Ascension Street between 6th Avenue and 7th Street, including removing one (1) of the two (2) southbound lanes on Ascension Street.
 - Narrowing 6th Avenue between I-235 and Ascension Street, including removing one (1) of the three (3) northbound lanes on 6th Avenue.
 - Geometric safety and sight distance improvements at the 6th Avenue and Day Street intersection.
 - Adding an eight (8)-foot-wide, two (2)-way, raised bicycle facility along 6th Avenue from University Avenue to I-235.
 - Adding a five (5)-foot-wide sidewalk along Ascension Street.
 - Increasing the amount of parkway with street tree plantings along the corridor between the roadway and sidewalk/raised bicycle facility.
 - Replacement of traffic signals at the intersection of Laurel Street and 6th Avenue.

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- The map illustrates the proposed transit and street improvements along the University Avenue corridor. Key features include:
- University Avenue:** The main corridor running horizontally across the top of the map.
 - 6th Avenue:** A vertical street intersecting University Avenue from the top.
 - 7th Street:** A vertical street intersecting University Avenue from the bottom.
 - Ascension Street:** A diagonal street intersecting University Avenue from the bottom right.
 - Landmarks:** Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, MercyOne Child Development Center, and a building labeled "BANK TRIP".
 - Proposed Improvements:**
 - Transit Lanes:** Indicated by red and green lines along the corridor.
 - Sidewalks:** Labeled as "EXISTING SIDEWALK" and "PROPOSED SIDEWALK".
 - Travel Lanes:** Labeled as "11' TRAVEL LANE", "11' TURN LANE", and "11' TRAVEL LANE".
 - Parking:** Labeled as "PARKING WITH STREET TREES" and "PARKING WITH FUTURE TRAVEL LANE".
 - Entrances:** Labeled as "MERCYONE ENTRANCE" and "MERCYONE ENTRANCE".



- On August 7, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-1064, City Council approved the FY2025 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to IDOT for the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street for \$500,000 (maximum amount per project under TSIP).
- IDOT has awarded \$500,000 in TSIP funding for the 6th Avenue Streetscape-Phase 3 project, including the improvements proposed at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street. The estimated project cost for construction is \$3,000,000. The project is anticipated to start in 2025.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: August 7, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1064](#)

Action: [Approving](#) the FY2025 TSIP Application to the IDOT for the intersection of 6th Avenue and Day Street. ([Council Communication No. 23-365](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated future actions related to this project include, ordering construction, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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