


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number: 24-394	Meeting: October 7, 2024
	Agenda Item: 9A	Roll Call: 24-1333
	Submitted by: Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer	

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Second Amendment to the Agreement between the City of Pleasant Hill and the City of Des Moines for the coordination of funding, design and corridor preservation for the Southeast Connector.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Second Amendment to the Agreement with Pleasant Hill for the Southeast Connector project regarding the coordination of funding, design and corridor preservation of the Southeast Connector. The Second Amendment outlines the terms and responsibilities associated with the funding, design, construction of the Southeast Connector between SE 30th Street in Des Moines and U.S. Highway 65 in Pleasant Hill, including naming of the completed roadway.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$59,000,000

Funding Source: Various funding sources, as follows:

- \$34,000,000 – Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant
- \$11,284,000 – Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding allocated by the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- \$13,716,000 – Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 104, Southeast Connector – SE 30th Street to U.S. Highway 65, ST256, G.O. Bonds, TIF Bonds and Proceeds from Federal Title 23 Excess Land Sales

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Southeast Connector is a public improvement project undertaken by the City of Des Moines, which connects downtown Des Moines as an extension of Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Parkway, through the industrial southeast quadrant of the City of Des Moines to the U.S. Highway 65 in Pleasant Hill.
- Pleasant Hill and Des Moines (the parties) entered into an Agreement (the “Agreement”) that was approved by the City Council of the City of Des Moines on December 7, 2015, by Roll Call No. 15-2038, and by the City Council of the City of Pleasant Hill on November 24, 2015, by Roll Call

No. 112415-08 for the coordination of funding, design and corridor preservation of the Southeast Connector.

- The parties amended the Agreement to include terms and responsibilities associated with the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Project and the preservation of property for the Southeast Connector as approved by the City Council of the City of Des Moines on March 7, 2016, by Roll Call No. 16-0372, and by the City Council of the City of Pleasant Hill on March 8, 2016, by Roll Call No. 030816-07.
- Pleasant Hill subsequently undertook a public improvement project known as the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Project (hereinafter referred to as “Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection”), which realigned the intersection of Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road to allow for future east-west connection to the Southeast Connector. This project was funded, in part, with \$7,932,000 of STBG funding allocated to the Southeast Connector. The project was completed in 2021.
- Completion of the final segment of the Southeast Connector between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65 will improve freight movement through the area by connecting the National Highway System from MLK, Jr. Parkway and SE 14th Street (U.S. Highway 69) and U.S. Highway 65 to serve area businesses and the transload facility. This will directly result in more efficient and lower cost shipping for the region.
- The final 2.2-mile-segment of the Southeast Connector (SE 30th – U.S. Highway 65) includes two (2) lanes of roadway [one (1) lane in each direction], a 1,515-foot-long bridge, multi-use trail, the relocation and improvement of 4,000 feet of the SE Des Moines Levee system, storm water enhancements, as well as right-of-way and grading for future expansion of the roadway if future traffic volumes warrant.
- The Cities of Des Moines and Pleasant Hill jointly applied for federal funding, including STBG and discretionary funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program (2021, 2022 and 2023), Surface Transportation Reauthorization Funding (2021), Community Project Funding (2023) and INFRA in 2023. The INFRA discretionary grant award totaling \$34 million was announced in January 2024.
- A second amendment to the Agreement is needed with terms and responsibilities associated with funding, design and construction of the Southeast Connector between SE 30th Street in Des Moines and U.S. Highway in Pleasant Hill and naming of the completed roadway, including but not limited to:
 1. Des Moines is responsible for design and all property acquisition of the Southeast Connector full build between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65.
 2. Des Moines is responsible for construction of the Southeast Connector between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65 consisting of grading the full right of way, constructing the eastbound roadway lanes, including a 1,515-foot-long bridge over Fourmile Creek, and initially utilizing the two (2)-lane eastbound roadway for one vehicle lane in each direction, as well as improvements to adjacent connecting roadways at SE 30th Street, SE 36th Street and SE 43rd Street.

3. Pleasant Hill will reimburse Des Moines for all water main work constructed as part of the Southeast Connector project that is within Pleasant Hill's corporate limits.
4. Maintenance and ownership responsibilities of the completed project follow the corporate limits.
5. The completed project will be named East Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 7, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-0372](#)

Action: [Approving](#) First Amendment to the Agreement with Pleasant Hill for the Southeast Connector and Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Projects and authorizing the payment of funds for reimbursement of certain property interests needed for the Southeast Connector. ([Council Communication: 16-115](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: January 25, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-0108](#)

Action: [Requesting](#) Des Moines MPO transfer a portion of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds from allocation to Southeast Connector to the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Project, and authorizing City Manager to negotiate an amendment to the Agreement with Pleasant Hill for the Southeast Connector and Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Projects. ([Council Communication: 16-052](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Actions required for the construction of the Southeast Connector project between SE 30th Street in Des Moines and U.S. Highway 65 in Pleasant Hill.

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