


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-415	Meeting:	October 21, 2024
	Agenda Item:	6B	Roll Call:	24-1421
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director, and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements - Receiving bids, (11-5-24), and Setting date of hearing, (12-9-24). (Construction Estimate - \$680,000).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council order construction of the improvement and set dates to receive bids and hold a public hearing, as required by Iowa Code, utilizing the method of financing referenced below. The project includes geometric intersection improvements at 41st Street and Beaver Avenue. These geometric improvements will eliminate the existing skewed intersection by realigning 41st Street to create a perpendicular intersection.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$680,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 125, 41st Street & Beaver Avenue, ST292, Being: \$450,000 (Max) in Iowa Department of Traffic and Transportation (IDOT) Traffic Safety Improvement Funds under CS-TSF-1945(875)--85-77 and the remaining \$230,000 in G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

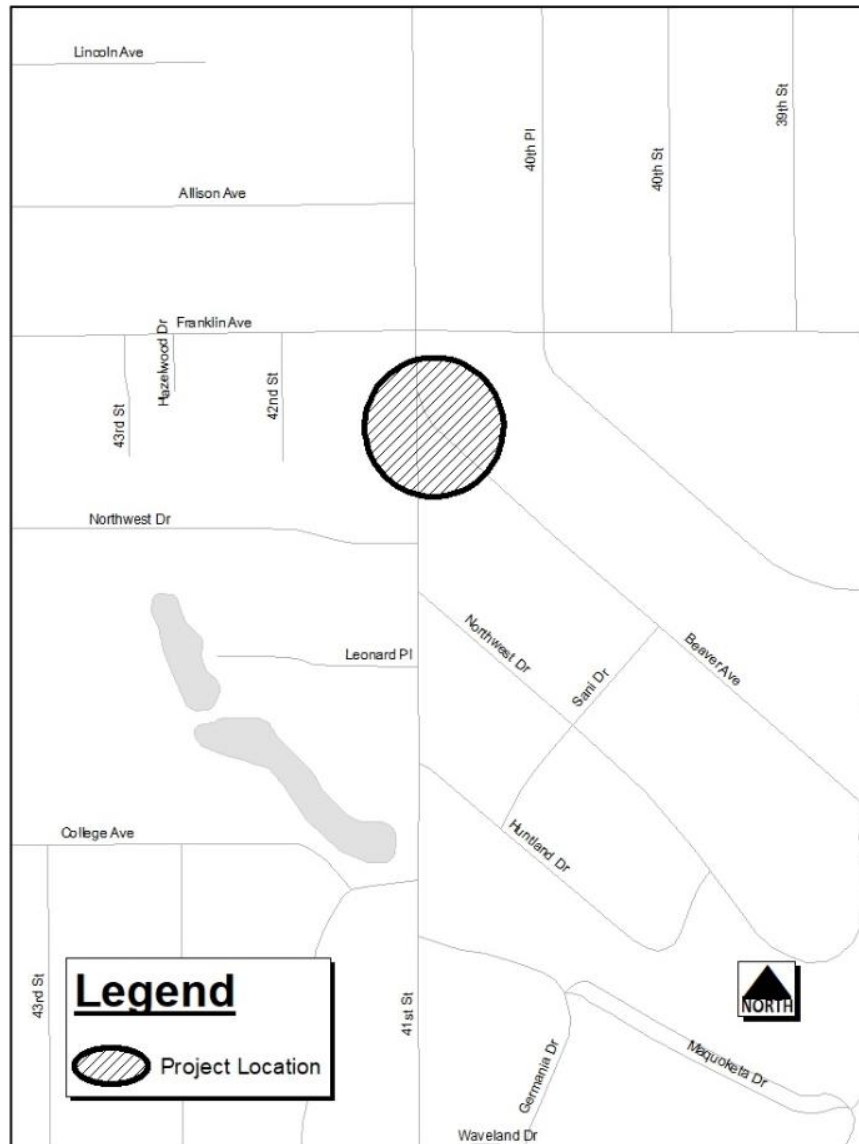
- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements, Activity ID 06-2023-003. The improvement includes Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement, Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) paving, PCC curb and gutter, pavement removals, earthwork, pavement markings, traffic control, erosion control, and surface restoration, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 666- 001/044, located at 41st Street and Beaver Avenue.
- The estimated construction cost is \$680,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.
- 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.

- 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. Based the study, "many close calls were observed at this location of cars wanting to continue straight from 41st Street to northbound on Beaver Avenue. It was noted that cars were confused distinguishing which southbound vehicles were continuing south onto 41st Street and which vehicles were continuing on Beaver Avenue. Observations indicated many occurrences of abrupt braking to avoid potential crashes." In a 10-year period prior to October 2018 when the traffic study was completed, there were 21 crashes at this intersection resulting in injuries.
- To address the safety issues at this intersection, it is recommended to realign 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 alignment will limit the exposure for pedestrians and bicyclists on Beaver Avenue, as well as slow southbound traffic going from Beaver Avenue to 41st Street since this project will create a "right-turn" turning movement as opposed to the "through" movement that exists today.



- On May 20, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-0724, City Council approved the execution of the IDOT Agreement for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements.
- On August 7, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-1065, City Council approved the FY2025 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to IDOT for the intersection of 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements for \$500,000.
- On May 8, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-0639 (Council Communication No. 23-229), City Council authorized City staff to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements Project. The total property interests needed for this project consists of one (1) total fee acquisition (1760 Beaver Avenue), one (1) permanent easement for implementation of a public pedestrian way, and seven (7) temporary construction easements, all to be acquired from eight (8) separate property owners. City staff have completed the real estate acquisition process with all property owners, including relocation of the business at 1760 Beaver Avenue.
- Construction of this project is anticipated to be completed in the fall 2025.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 20, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0724](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of the IDOT Agreement for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvements. ([Council Communication No. 24-213](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 7, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1065](#)

Action: [Approving](#) the Fiscal Year 2025 TSIP Application to IDOT for the 41st Street and Beaver Avenue Intersection Improvement Project. ([Council Communication No. 23-364](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

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:

Anticipated actions include public hearing, 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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