


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-015	Meeting:	January 13, 2025
	Agenda Item:	7A	Roll Call:	25-0008
	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: Southeast Connector from SE 30th Street to US 65 - Receiving bids, (1-22-25), and Setting date of hearing, (2-10-25). (Construction Estimate - \$60,700,000).

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. This project is a two (2)-lane extension of the east-west segment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway from SE 30th Street to South Pleasant Hill Boulevard and includes:

- construction of a 1,515-foot-long bridge over Fourmile Creek,
- construction of a 12-foot-wide multiuse trail along the south side of the SE Connector,
- relocation and improvement of 4,000 feet of the SE Des Moines Levee system,
- reconstruction and widening of SE 30th Street between CB & Q Street and Raccoon Street,
- construction of SE 36th Street from SE Connector to Vandalia Road,
- construction of SE 43rd Street from SE Connector to Vandalia Road, and
- construction of Onawa Street and SE 32nd Street between SE 30th Street and Maury Street.

This project includes the acquisition of all necessary right-of-way and grading to accommodate a future four (4)-lane arterial roadway.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$60,700,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 104, Southeast Connector, ST256, Being: \$34,000,000 (maximum) in Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFA) Federal Grant, being 77% eligible for grading, paving and bridge construction costs under Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Project No. HDP-1945(411)--71-77; \$11,284,000 in Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds being 80% eligible for roadway construction costs

allocated through the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under IDOT Project No. HDP-1945(411)--71-77; \$500,000 from Pleasant Hill for water main construction; \$100,000 from Des Moines Water Works; and the remaining \$14,816,000 in City funds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the Southeast Connector from SE 30th Street to US 65, Activity ID 06-2022-020. The improvement includes construction of a steel girder bridge over Fourmile Creek and construction of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement 10-inches thick on the Southeast Connector, SE 30th Street, SE 36th Street, SE 43rd Street, and Onawa Street with various width pavements and medians, together with the necessary removals, earthwork, clearing, grubbing, erosion control, sidewalks, driveways, recreational trails, pavement subdrains, storm sewers, water mains, traffic control, traffic signals, street lighting, intersection enhancements, and landscaping, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 669-001/1056 on the Southeast Connector from SE 30th Street to South Pleasant Hill Boulevard.
- The IDOT will receive bids for the project on behalf of the City at its January 22, 2025 bid letting.
- The Southeast Connector project from SE 30th Street to U.S. Highway 65 provides for the extension of the Southeast Connector and east-west segment of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway from SE 30th Street to U.S. Highway 65. The project is a joint effort with the City of Pleasant Hill.
- 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 by extending Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway to U.S. Highway 65, thereby serving multiple area businesses and the Des Moines Industrial transload facility, as well as provide a much more efficient travel way into the City from the southeast portion of the County. 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 multi-use trail, a 1,515-foot-long bridge, the relocation and improvement of 4,000 feet of the SE Des Moines Levee system, storm water enhancements, as well as right-of-way acquisition and grading for future expansion of the roadway if warranted by future traffic volumes.
- 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 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) in 2023. An INFRA discretionary grant award to the City, totaling \$34 million, was announced in January 2024.
- On September 16, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-1216, the City Council approved an Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSRR), providing for construction of the Southeast Connector project across or adjacent to NSRR facilities, generally located between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65. The agreement includes, but is not limited to the following terms:

1. Terms for railroad engineering services, replacement of railroad crossing signals and warning devices at two (2) at-grade railroad crossings, modifications to an existing flood control structure and associated levee work, and terms for maintenance and repairs after the project is completed. Costs for work performed by the railroad to improve these facilities will be based on actual expenses.
 2. Coordination with NSRR personnel for construction activities, submittal reviews, and maintaining railroad operations during the project.
 3. Upon completion of the project, NSRR shall own and, at its own cost and expense, maintain the railroad project improvements.
- On October 7, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-1333, the City Council approved the second amendment to the Agreement with the City of Pleasant Hill, which outlines various terms and responsibilities associated with funding, design and construction of this project 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-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 SE 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.
 - The estimated construction cost is \$60,700,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office and bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Transportation on January 22, 2025.
 - Primary reasons for the increase in cost estimate to \$60,700,00 include the following:
 - Additional estimated rubble removal at Sams Riverside after final site investigation.
 - Additional Rip Rap in Fourmile Creek per Iowa DNR comments.
 - Additional water main replacements requested by DMWW.
 - Overall bridge cost increases due to final quantities and the use of fiber-reinforcement in the bridge deck.
 - Construction will begin in 2025 following contract award and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 7, 2024

Roll Call Numbers: [24-1333](#), [24-1334](#), [24-1335](#) and [24-1336](#)

Action: Approving items regarding the proposed Southeast Connector Project:

- (A) Second Amendment to the agreement with the City of Pleasant Hill for the coordination of funding, design and corridor preservation for the Southeast Connector. ([Council Communication No. 24-394](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Mandelbaum. Motion by Mandelbaum to delay consideration and renegotiate terms failed, no second.
- (B) Authorizing the execution of United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Grant Agreement for the INFRA Grant for the Southeast Connector project between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65. ([Council Communication No. 24-395](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Mandelbaum.
- (C) Authorizing the execution of IDOT Agreement for the Southeast Connector project between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65. ([Council Communication No. 24-396](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Mandelbaum.
- (D) Authorizing the execution of IDOT Agreement for PCC Pavement work on the Southeast Connector project between SE 30th Street and U.S. Highway 65. ([Council Communication No. 24-397](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Mandelbaum.

Date: September 16, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1216](#)

Action: [Approving](#) execution of an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the Southeast Connector project from SE 30th Street to U.S. Highway 65, estimated cost \$1,316,154. ([Council Communication No. 24-365](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

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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