


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-053	Meeting:	February 10, 2025
	Agenda Item:	46	Roll Call:	25-0226
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director, and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Hearing on Southeast Connector from SE 30th Street to US 65: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder as C. J. Moyna & Sons, LLC (John P. Moyna, President) and Progressive Structures, LLC (Travis Augustyn, President), a Joint Venture, \$58,999,314.12.

SYNOPSIS:

This is a public hearing to allow for public input on the Southeast Connector from SE 30th Street to US 65 and take the necessary actions as required by Iowa Code to authorize a contract for construction of the proposed project. 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, as highlighted in yellow in the figure below, and includes:

- Construction of 2.2 miles of two (2)-lane roadway;
- Construction of a 1,515-foot-long bridge over Fourmile Creek;
- Construction of a 12-foot-wide 2.2-mile multi-use 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;
- Construction of Onawa Street and SE 32nd Street between SE 30th Street and Maury Street; and
- Acquisition of all necessary right-of-way and grading to accommodate a future four (4)-lane arterial roadway, if future traffic volumes warrant expansion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$58,999,314.12 Construction Contract (\$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. STP-U-1945(879)--70-77; \$500,000 from Pleasant Hill for water main construction; \$100,000 from Des Moines Water Works; and the remaining \$13,115,314.12 in City funds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On January 13, 2025, under Roll Call No. 25-0008, the City Council received and filed 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. Before the City Council can enter into a contract, it must hold a public hearing and approve the proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents and 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.
- Sealed bids for said improvement were submitted by the following bidders:
 - C. J. Moyna & Sons, LLC & Progressive Structures, LLC, A Joint Venture, Elkader, IA - Low Bid
 - United Contractors, Inc. and Subsidiaries, Johnston, IA
 - Peterson Contractors, Inc., Reinbeck, IA
 - Cramer and Associates, Inc., Grimes, IA
 - Elder Corporation, Des Moines, IA
 - Reilly Construction Co., Inc., Ossian, IA
- The bids, in accordance with a previously approved IDOT Agreement, were received and opened by IDOT on January 22, 2025, on behalf of the City.
- The City Engineer has determined that the lowest responsive, responsible bid for the construction of said improvement was submitted by C.J. Moyna & Sons, LLC (John P. Moyna, President) and Progressive Structures, LLC (Travis Augustyn, President), a Joint Venture (24412 Hwy 13, Elkader, IA 52043) in the amount of \$58,999,314.12, and said bid should be accepted. The Finance Director has determined that funds are available for said improvement as stated above.
- The Southeast Connector project from SE 30th Street to U.S. Highway 65 provides for the extension of the Southeast Connector, an 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 Polk County. This will directly result in safer, more efficient travel and lower cost for transportation of goods in 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 several federal discretionary grant funding opportunities to assist with implementation of the project, 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 (2)-lane eastbound roadway for one (1) 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.
- Construction will begin in 2025 following contract award and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 13, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0008](#)

Action: Ordering construction of the following:

- (A) [Southeast](#) Connector from SE 30th Street to US 65: Receiving of bids, (1-22-25) and Setting date of hearing, (2-10-25), Engineer's estimate, \$60,700,000. ([Council Communication No. 25-015](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Mandelbaum. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 7, 2024

Roll Call Number: [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 (USDOT) Grant Agreement for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (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 Portland Cement Concrete (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:

Partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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