


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-078	Meeting:	February 24, 2025
	Agenda Item:	53	Roll Call:	25-0304
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Hearing on Porter Avenue Improvements from SW 9th Street to South Union Street: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder as TK Concrete, Inc. (Tony J. Ver Meer, President), \$600,764.

SYNOPSIS:

This is a public hearing to allow for public input on the Porter Avenue Improvements from SW 9th Street to South Union Street and take the necessary actions as required by Iowa Code to authorize a contract for construction of the proposed project. The project includes traffic calming improvements and sidewalk improvements, including:

- Construction of two (2) speed humps in the vicinity of 709 and 301 Porter Avenue.
- Construction of a raised crosswalk and associated storm sewer on Porter Avenue near the intersection of SW 2nd Street and the Mitchell Early Learning Center.
- Construction of new sidewalk (where sidewalk does not currently exist) on the north side of Porter Avenue between SW 8th Street and SW 9th Street and along the south side of Porter Avenue adjoining 800 Porter Avenue. The roadway along Porter Avenue from SW 8th Street to SW 7th Street will be reduced to two (2) lanes with no parking allowed on either side to accommodate the added sidewalk and to help calm traffic.
- Pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of 45th Street and Chamberlain Avenue, including new sidewalk curb ramps and the addition of a concrete curb extension to prevent vehicles from parking within the intersection along the south side of Chamberlain Avenue.
- Pavement replacement at the intersection of Lay Street and E. Jefferson Avenue to repair deteriorated pavement and construction of a curb extension to reduce the width of the south leg of the intersection to one (1) lane to prevent vehicles from incorrectly entering the one-way only northbound traffic direction on Lay Street between E. Washington Avenue and E. Jefferson Avenue adjoining Phillips Elementary School.

FISCAL IMPACT:

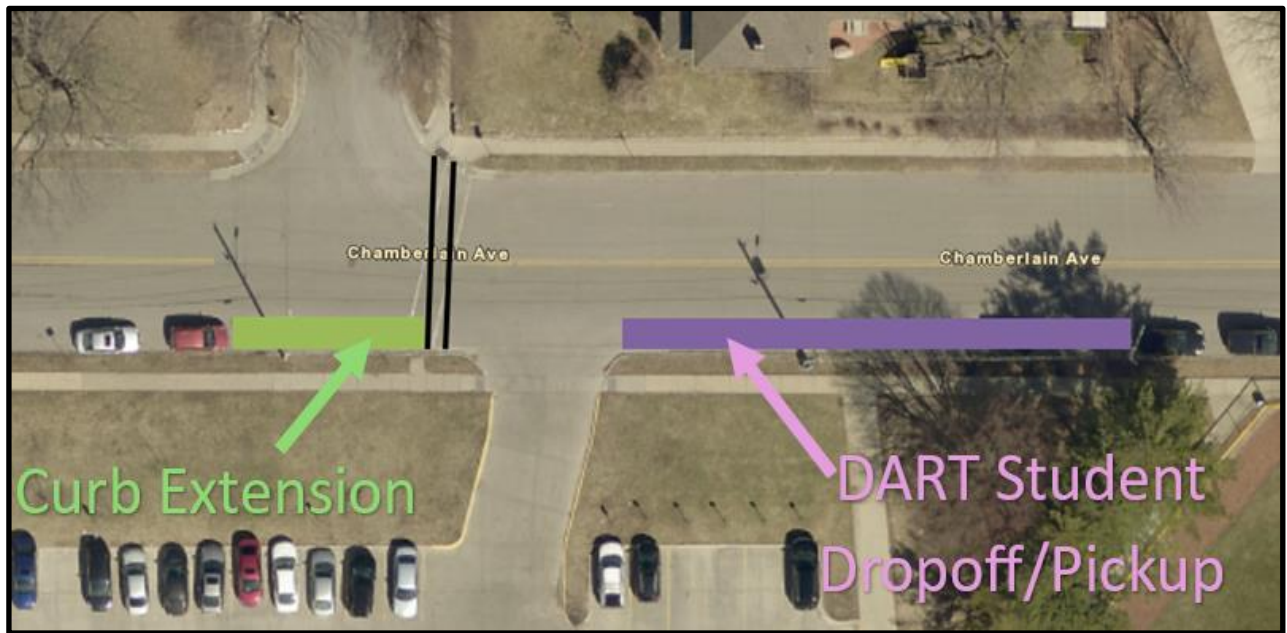
Amount: \$600,764 Construction Contract (\$575,000 City Engineer's Estimate)

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 155, Sidewalks - School and Priority Routes, SW081, Being: \$389,804 in G.O. Bonds, \$70,000 transferred from TR032 (Traffic Calming Improvements), \$100,000 transferred from ST065 (Portland Cement Concrete [PCC] Pavement Replacement), and the remaining \$40,960 from Des Moines Water Works

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On January 13, 2025, under Roll Call No. 25-0013, the City Council received and filed plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the Porter Avenue Improvements from SW 9th Street to South Union Street. 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 Porter Avenue Improvements from SW 9th Street to South Union Street, Activity ID 09-2024-005. The improvement includes Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) and PCC roadway pavement, sidewalk, driveways, pavement removal, storm sewer, water main, temporary traffic control, erosion control, retaining walls, surface restoration, and other incidental items, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 667-192/237, located along Porter Avenue between SW 9th Street and South Union Street; the intersection of E. Jefferson Avenue and E. Lay Street; and the intersection of 45th Street and Chamberlain Avenue.
- Sealed bids for said improvement were submitted by the following bidders:
 - TK Concrete, Inc., Pella, IA - Low Bid
 - Caliber Concrete, LLC, Adair, IA - Bid not read (City's Bid Bond Form not submitted)
- The bids were received and opened at a public meeting presided over by the City Engineer in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, IA at 11:00 a.m. on January 28, 2025.
- The City Engineer has determined that the lowest responsive, responsible bid for the construction of said improvement was submitted by TK Concrete, Inc. (Tony J. Ver Meer, President, 1608 Fifield Road, Pella, IA 50219) in the amount of \$600,764, and said bid should be accepted. The Finance Director has determined that funds are available for said improvement as stated above.
- In December 2021, residents along Porter Avenue reached out to the Ward Councilmember requesting solutions to address excessive speeding along Porter Avenue between SW 9th Street and South Union Street.
- The posted speed limit on Porter Avenue between SW 9th Street and South Union Street is 25 miles per hour (mph).
- In response, in February 2022, City staff completed a traffic study, which noted well over half of the traffic on Porter Avenue between SW 9th Street and SW 3rd Street was traveling over 30 mph, with 15 to 19 percent of traffic traveling over 35 mph.
- In November 2022, administration from Mitchell Early Learning Center with Des Moines Public Schools reached out with concerns about excessive speeding on Porter Avenue.
- Area residents also expressed concerns about sidewalk gaps in the area along Porter Avenue.

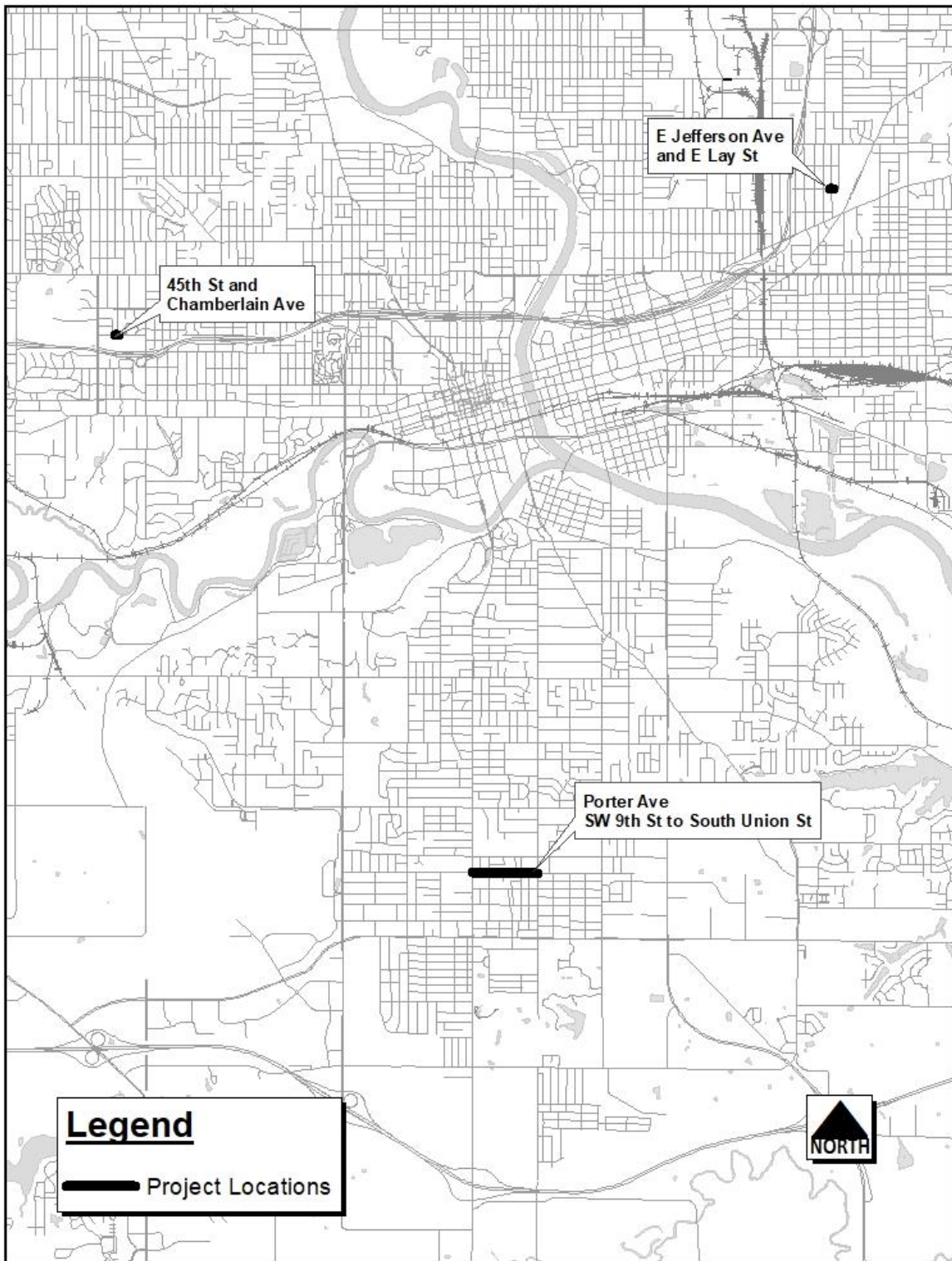
- Priority One sidewalk gaps exist on the north side of Porter Avenue between SW 8th Street and SW 9th Street and along the south side of Porter Avenue adjoining 800 Porter Avenue.
- In 2023, City staff worked with members of the South Central DSM Neighborhood Association to develop a plan to calm traffic, which includes:
 - Construction of two (2) speed humps in the vicinity of 709 and 301 Porter Avenue.
 - Construction of a raised crosswalk and associated storm sewer on Porter Avenue near the intersection of SW 2nd Street and the Mitchell Early Learning Center.
 - Construction of new sidewalk (where sidewalk does not currently exist) on the north side of Porter Avenue between SW 8th Street and SW 9th Street and along the south side of Porter Avenue adjoining 800 Porter Avenue. The roadway along Porter Avenue from SW 8th Street to SW 7th Street will be reduced to two (2) lanes with no parking allowed on either side to accommodate the added sidewalk and to help calm traffic.
- In September 2024, the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association requested Chamberlain Avenue from Crocker Street to Polk Boulevard go through the traffic calming process.
- Streets are eligible for further consideration under the traffic calming policy if they have a volume between 500 and 4,000 vehicles per day and have an 85th percentile speed of more than five (5) mph greater than the posted speed limit.
- Chamberlain Avenue has a posted speed limit of 25 mph.
- In November 2024, City staff completed a traffic study which noted average speeds of 20 mph and 24 mph at the two (2) locations speed data was collected, and 85th percentile speeds of 25 mph and 29 mph. Therefore, the traffic calming process for Chamberlain Avenue did not move forward.
- However, as part of the traffic study, City staff noted nine (9) crashes occurred around the intersection of Chamberlain Avenue and 45th Street, including a driveway into a parking lot at Theodore Roosevelt High School.
- City staff informed the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association that a curb extension would be constructed on the south side of Chamberlain Avenue in the intersection with 45th Street (see graphic below) to discourage illegal parking in the intersection and improve visibility for pedestrians crossing Chamberlain Avenue and for vehicles exiting the high school parking lot. This also creates a dedicated space for Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) to drop-off and pick up high school students.



- A curb extension is also proposed, as indicated in the graphic below, on Lay Street at the intersection approach to E. Jefferson Avenue to reduce the width of the south leg of the intersection to one (1) lane to prevent vehicles from incorrectly entering the “one-way” only northbound roadway on Lay Street between E. Washington Avenue and E. Jefferson Avenue adjoining Phillips Elementary School.



- Construction of this project is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 13, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0013](#)

Action: Ordering construction of the following:

- (F) Porter Avenue Improvements from SW 9th Street to South Union Street: Receiving of bids, (1-28-25) and Setting date of hearing, (2-24-25), Engineer's estimate, \$575,000. ([Council Communication No. 25-020](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Mandelbaum. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: September 12, 2023

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: MOTION was made by Luis Montoya to approve the Porter Avenue Traffic Calming; seconded by Jarrett Belden. Motion passed 5:0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.