


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>25-079</b>	Meeting:	<b>February 24, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>11</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-0248</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and adopting the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) Design Manual, 2025 Edition; SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition; and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications and supplemental specifications for the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and adoption of the latest editions of the SUDAS Manuals, which are known as the SUDAS Design Manual, 2025 Edition; SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition; and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications for construction of public improvements in the City and to be in effect beginning with all projects authorized by the City Council on February 24, 2025, which shall remain in effect until such time as they are further amended by this Council.

The SUDAS Design Manual and SUDAS Standard Specifications are statewide standards for design and construction of urban public improvements in Iowa, which are the product of a joint effort by many local jurisdictions to ensure that public improvements will function adequately, reduce maintenance problems, are durable and safe, and most of all, cost effective to the public within each jurisdiction using these design standards and standard specifications. City Supplemental Specifications supersede SUDAS Standard Specifications.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Reduced design and construction costs through uniformity, understanding, and acceptance by adopting updated Statewide Standards which includes reduction of contractor confusion and mistakes due to differing specifications and encouragement of more bidders.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The SUDAS Corporation has an extensive statewide district committee structure and various technical committees, all comprised of professional engineers representing Iowa stakeholders. Representatives from the City's Engineering and Public Works Departments participate in the various committees, and one (1) City of Des Moines representative sits on the 38-member SUDAS Board of Directors. These committees meet to review the statewide standards for design and

construction of urban public improvements and recommend changes that need to be made due to regulatory changes, changes of materials, improved construction techniques, and changing technology in the construction industry. After review and approval by the various committees and the SUDAS Board of Directors, the revisions are incorporated into the SUDAS Design Manual and SUDAS Standard Specifications annually.

- City staff further recommends approval and adoption of the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition.
- By using standard designs and specifications, Iowa's cities have obtained the following benefits:
  - Uniformity of urban design and specifications across the state.
  - Uniform public improvements (e.g., similar sidewalk ramps) from city to city.
  - Reduction of contractor confusion and mistakes due to differing specifications; and encouragement of more bidders.
  - Mechanism to be proactive in research and studies for new and improved urban design and specifications.
  - Method for study and statewide implementation of latest techniques and material use.
  - Forum that allows state and local governments to collaborate with industry.
  - Reduced costs through uniformity, understanding, and acceptance.
  - In-Trans (Iowa State University's Institute for Transportation) keeps the statewide SUDAS manuals up to date, relieving individual communities of that responsibility and expense while ensuring they are informed about new products and procedures.
- The revisions to this year's City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications include:
  - Added provision to enforce updated U.S. Access Board requirements for construction of detectable warning panels at sidewalk curb ramps. The Access Board recognized constructability issues with placing detectable warning panels right at the back of curb at a joint and now requires a 1" minimum and up to a 2" maximum concrete border around detectable warning panels at sidewalk curb ramps.
  - Added requirement for contractors to have dust collection or containment systems for street sweeping in areas causing additional dust, as determined by the City Engineer.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: March 4, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0310](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and adopting the Iowa SUDAS Design Manual, 2024 Edition; SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2024 Edition; and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2024 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications and supplemental specifications for the City of Des Moines. ([Council Communication No. 24-100](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 6-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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