


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-121	Meeting:	March 24, 2025
	Agenda Item:	9	Roll Call:	25-0415
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for 19th Street from Cottage Grove Avenue to Washington Avenue street improvements.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of IDOT Agreement No. 2026-TS-010 between the City of Des Moines and IDOT for 19th Street from Cottage Grove Avenue to Washington Avenue for Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$2,250,000 Estimated Cost

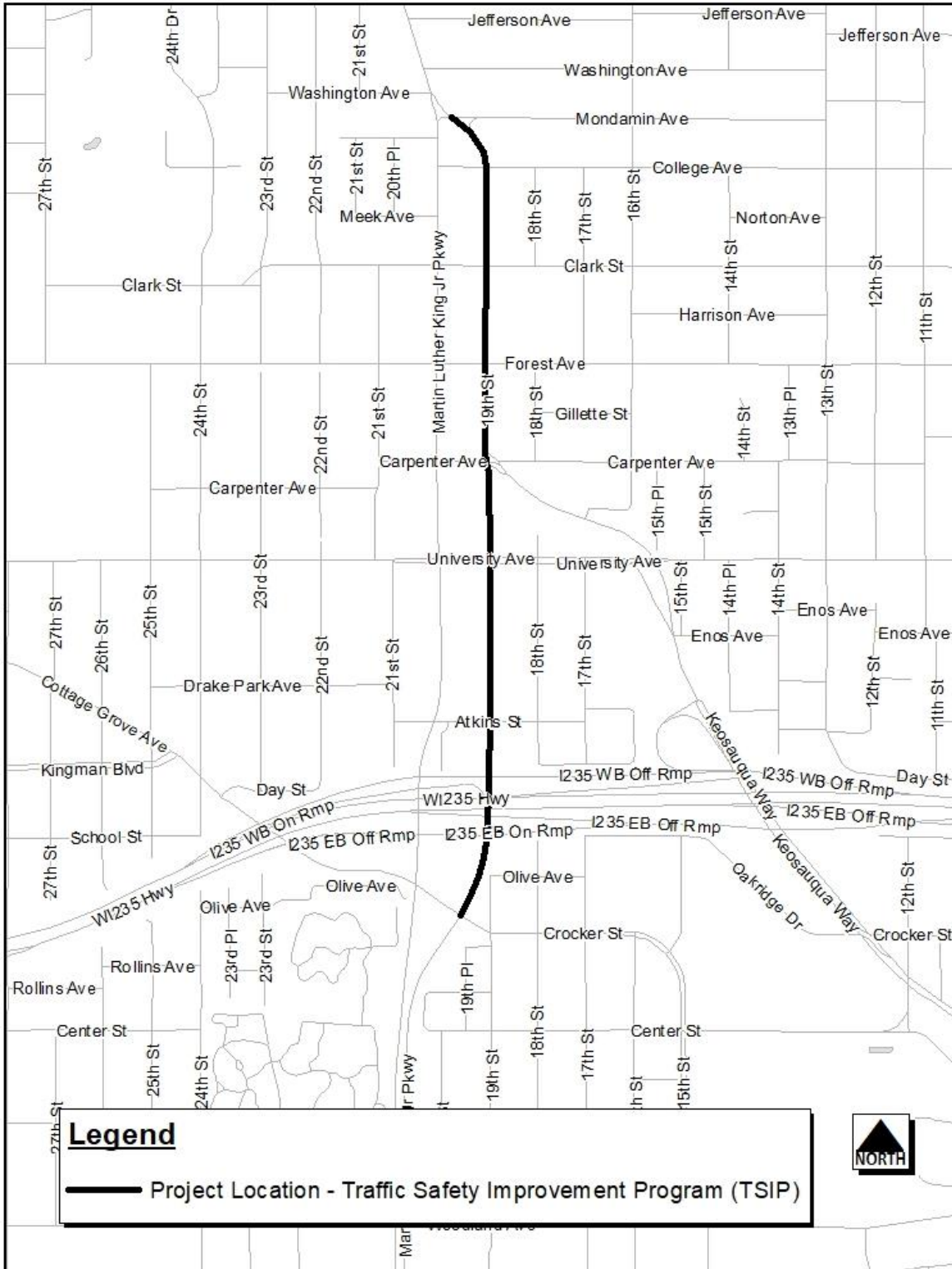
Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 143, 19th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Parkway Modifications, ST311, Being: \$500,000 in TSIP Funds and \$1,750,000 in General Obligation Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan was adopted by Council at the June 26, 2023, City Council Meeting. The Plan advanced the goals and objectives contained in PlanDSM and MoveDSM and set forth a plan of measures and strategies to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040 on streets within the City of Des Moines.
- MLK Parkway and 19th Street are a pair of three (3)-lane, one (1)-way streets providing a connection over Interstate 235 between the downtown area and the neighborhoods to the north.
- Between 2017-2021, 518 crashes occurred on these streets resulting in two (2) fatalities, three (3) serious injuries, and 279 minor or possible injuries.
- In response to resident concerns regarding speeding and safety on these corridors, and with an average daily traffic volume of about 10,700 vehicles per day on each street, the City reviewed the traffic and crash data and determined that the existing capacity was greater than the needed capacity for these streets. As a result, the number and width of travel lanes should be reduced on both streets.

- This lane reduction provides the space to relocate the curb line on 19th Street and provide a shared-use path connecting existing bike lanes on Cottage Grove Avenue and a shared-use path on MLK Parkway south of Cottage Grove Avenue across the interstate to the planned bike lanes on Forest Avenue. Curb extensions are also planned to enhance the sight distance around parked vehicles and reduce the pedestrian crossing distance. Sidewalks will be added where missing to provide a continuous sidewalk network.
- Both the MLK Parkway and 19th Street Improvements from Cottage Grove Avenue to Washington Avenue were included in the submittal for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program funds.
- On November 15, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the fiscal year 2024 SS4A grant awards, which included \$13,000,000 to the City of Des Moines for an implementation grant.
- The SS4A agreement is ready for execution by the U.S. Department of Transportation, but City staff do not have a schedule for when the SS4A agreement will be executed.
- The MLK Parkway Improvement project schedule will be determined once the SS4A agreement is executed.
- 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.
- According to IDOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2016-2020, the intersections of 19th Street & Day Street/I-235 WB Off-ramp and 19th Street & University Avenue are ranked 3rd and 17th, respectively, among all intersections statewide for potential crash reduction. Several other intersections along this corridor also have a high potential for crash reduction according to IDOT.
- The goal of the 19th Street Improvement project is to "right-size" the street cross-section for the traffic volume, decrease average vehicle speeds, improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and improve safety outcomes for all street users. To address safety along this corridor, several improvements are proposed. This project's improvements include a lane reduction from a three (3)-lane, one (1)-way street with narrow sidewalks to a two (2)-lane, one (1)-way street with a separate 10-foot shared-use path from Cottage Grove Avenue to Forest Avenue. The shared-use path will include a connection over Interstate 235, which is a significant barrier between the Drake and Good Park Neighborhoods to the north and the Downtown Core. This project will also include street resurfacing from Atkins Street to Mondamin Avenue, adding retroreflective backplates on traffic signal heads, a speed limit reduction from 30 mph to 25 mph, and the realignment of the skewed intersection at Keosauqua Way/Carpenter Avenue.
- On August 5, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-1046, City Council approved the FY2026 TSIP Application to IDOT for the 19th Street Improvement project for \$500,000.

- IDOT has awarded \$500,000 in TSIP funding for the 19th Street Improvement project, so an agreement with IDOT is required for administration and receipt of the TSIP funding.
- The estimated project cost for the 19th Street Improvement project is \$2,250,000, with TSIP Funds in the amount of \$500,000. The project is anticipated to begin construction in 2027.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 5, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1046](#)

Action: [Approving](#) the FY2026 TSIP Application to the IDOT for the 19th Street Improvement Project. ([Council Communication No. 24-311](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-0. Absent: Gatto.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance or work.

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