


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-291	Meeting:	August 4, 2025
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	25-1022
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Forest Avenue Improvement Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT for FY2027 TSIP funding for the Forest Avenue Improvement Project. IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. The maximum request for funding per project is \$500,000. The deadline for this year's application is August 15, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:

Estimated Total Project Costs:

Construction Costs	\$3,700,000
Engineering Design & Construction Administration	\$250,000
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Estimated Total Project Costs	\$3,950,000

Funding Source:

- \$2,960,000 – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Federal Funding
- \$500,000 – Traffic Safety Improvement Program Funding Request
- \$490,000 (remaining amount pending TSIP funding awarded) – FY2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 129, Beaverdale to Downtown, ST278, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 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. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2025, for the next programming cycle.
- Funding requests may be up to \$500,000 per project. Available funding for the Traffic Safety Improvement program varies by year. In FY2026 approximately \$8 million was awarded. Historically, the State has received applications for more funding than available.
- Staff have reviewed potential projects and recommend the Forest Avenue Improvement Project from Beaver Avenue to 9th Street be submitted for TSIP Funds. According to IDOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2018-2022, the intersections of 30th Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, and 19th Street on Forest Avenue, rank in the top 100 of all intersections statewide for potential crash reduction. Several other intersections along this corridor have a high potential crash reduction according to IDOT. Forest Avenue is also on the City's High Injury Network (HIN) as one of the highest crash corridors in the City.
- The goal of this project is to "right size" the street cross-section for the traffic volume, slow vehicle speeds, improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and improve safety outcomes for all street users. To address safety along this corridor, several improvements have been proposed. This project includes a Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) mill & overlay and lane reduction from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street. From Beaver Avenue to 23rd Street, the street will be restriped from four (4)-lanes to three (3)-lanes with a travel lane in either direction, a center two (2)-way left-turn lane, and buffered bike lanes. In the section from 23rd Street to Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, the street will be reduced to two (2) lanes of traffic with buffered bike lanes and parking on the north side of the street. This project will also include a center median along the Drake University Campus to slow traffic and provide a median refuge island for pedestrian crossings. Curb extensions will be built to shadow parking and reduce the street width from 23rd Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. This project will also include the replacement of the traffic signals at 25th Street and 27th Street.
- Previously the City was awarded a \$13 million federal funding grant for SS4A. This funding grant had various citywide safety projects, including this project on Forest Avenue. This funding grant covers 80 percent (80%) of the construction costs. The City is responsible for the remaining 20 percent (20%).
- The total estimated project cost is \$3,950,000 with TSIP Funds in the amount of \$500,000 being requested. The TSIP Funds would cover a portion of the construction costs and would offset a portion of the City's 20 percent (20%) match required as part of the SS4A funding grant. Receipt of TSIP Funding would provide for construction of the project to start in FY2027.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 6, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0640](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) the application for a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) SS4A Implementation Grant. ([Council Communication No. 24- 202](#)) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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