


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-309	Meeting:	August 18, 2025
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	25-1099
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Olsson, Inc. for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Master Plan Integration Services – Phase 6, not to exceed \$536,190.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Olsson, Inc. (601 P Street, Suite 200, Lincoln, NE 68508) for a total cost not to exceed \$536,190, based on hourly rates, to complete engineering design, survey, and construction administration services for Phase 6 of the ITS Master Plan including upgrading 34 traffic signal cabinets/controllers, replacement of six complete intersection traffic signal systems, removal of three intersection traffic signals, installation of emergency vehicle pre-emption equipment at 19 intersections, and the installation of one permanent changeable message sign.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$536,190

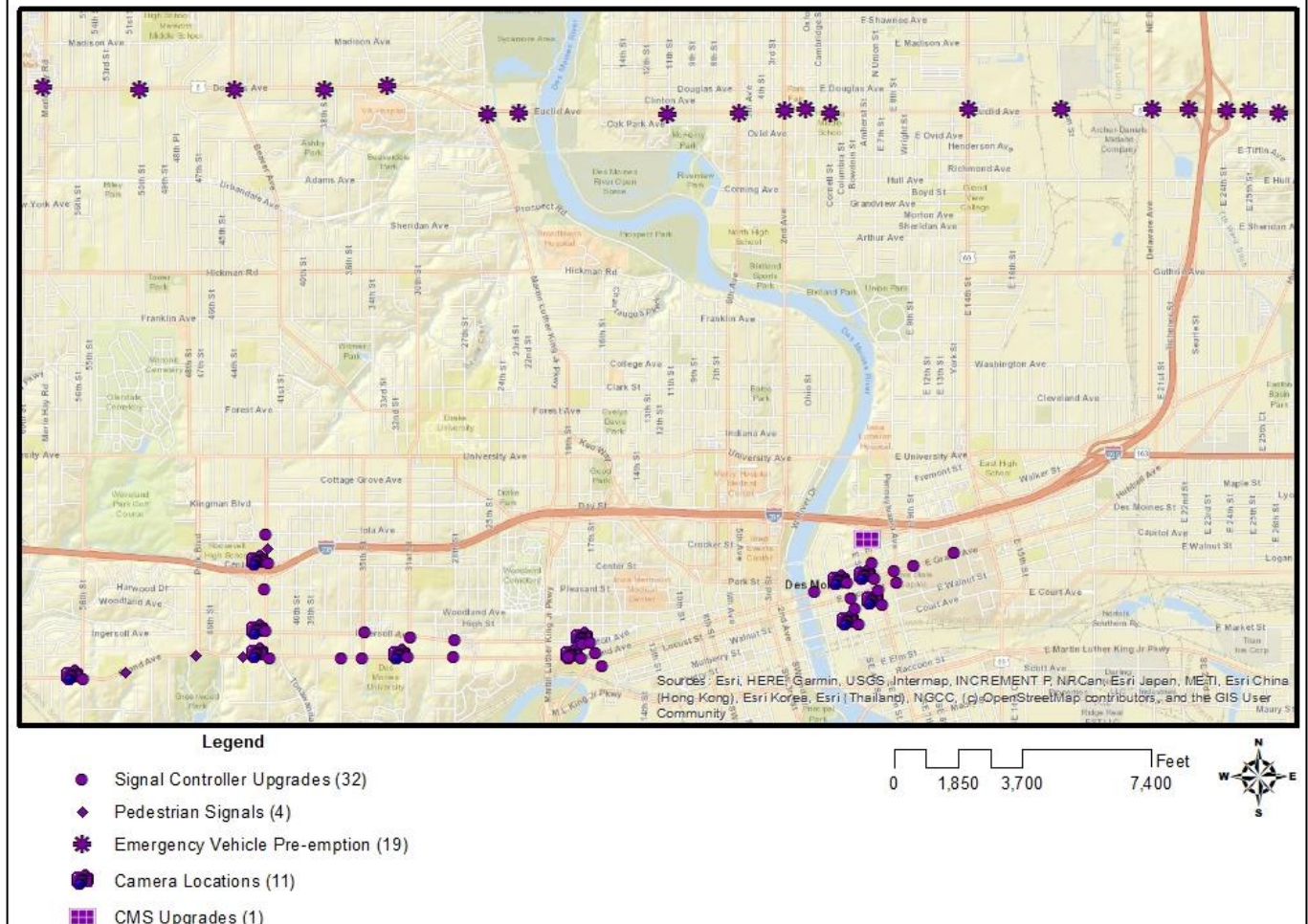
Funding Source: 2025-2026 CIP, Page 172, Traffic Signal Replacement, TR091, G.O. Bonds; and 2025-2026 CIP, Page 173, Traffic System Operation Improvements, TR097, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The results and recommendations of the ITS Master Plan were presented to Council at a work session on October 22, 2018. The ITS Master Plan was adopted as a framework for the City of Des Moines future traffic management and communication system infrastructure at the November 19, 2018 Council Meeting.
- The ITS Master Plan addresses major components: signal system hardware and software, work order system, fiber communications infrastructure, video observation cameras, and dynamic message signs.
- The current ITS infrastructure for the City of Des Moines primarily consists of antiquated technologies, including traffic signal controllers using 1970's technology and video observation cameras that are often not operable.

- The ITS Master Plan is broken into eight (8) phases with an original estimated total cost of \$12.5 million. These eight (8) phases are prioritized on vehicle volumes, roadway capacity, annual crashes, truck/transit route needs, existing operational issues, and conditions of existing communications.
- Phase 1-Phase 3 were completed between 2022 and 2024. Phase 4 construction is substantially complete as of July 31, 2025. Phase 5 construction documents were completed and publicly bid on April 15, 2025. Construction of Phase 5 is expected to be completed by June 30, 2026.
- This professional services agreement is to facilitate the design and bidding documents of the ITS Master Plan Phase 6.
- Phase 6 includes upgrading 34 traffic signal locations generally along Grand Avenue, Ingersoll Avenue, 42nd Street from Grand Ave to Crocker Street, and the Historic East Village as shown in the map on the next page. Each intersection will include the following activities:
 - Communication infrastructure upgrades.
 - Communication network upgrades.
 - Traffic Signal Cabinet/Controller/ITS Device upgrades.
- Phase 6 will also include reconstructing the traffic signals at six (6) intersections and removing traffic signals at three intersections in the Historic East Village.
 - Traffic Signal Replacement
 - E Grand Avenue & Robert D Ray Drive
 - E Grand Avenue & E 4th Street
 - E Grand Avenue & E 6th Street
 - E Grand Avenue & Pennsylvania Avenue
 - E Locust Street & E 6th Street
 - E Walnut Street & E 6th Street
 - Traffic Signal Removal
 - E Locust Street & E 4th Street
 - E Locust Street & E 7th Street
 - E Walnut Street & E 4th Street
- One (1) new changeable message sign (CMS) will be installed for E 6th Street southbound traffic near Des Moines Street as part of Phase 6. The new CMS will be used to inform drivers about parking availability, construction activities, and street use events that may impact travel.
- Included in Phase 6 is the installation of emergency vehicle pre-emption (EVP) equipment at 19 intersections along the Douglas Ave/Euclid Ave/E Euclid Ave corridor. The EVP equipment will be used by the Fire Department during emergency calls to improve response time.
- The Engineering Department's RFP process, including advertisement, was used for the procurement of these professional services. City Staff, with concurrence with the City Engineer, selected and negotiated a PSA with Olsson, Inc., for a total cost not to exceed \$536,190, based on hourly rates, to provide professional services for Phase 6 of the ITS Master Plan Integration.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan Phase 6



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 19, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1895](#)

Action: [Approval](#) of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan as the framework for the City's future traffic management and communication systems infrastructure. ([Council Communication No. 18-624](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: June 9, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0807](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Upgrade Phase 6 project. ([Council Communication: 25-225](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: September 11, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion was made by Jim Windsor to support investments in new technology and infrastructure; seconded by Scott Bents. Motion passed 8-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Additional anticipated actions for the project 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 of work.

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