


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-311	Meeting:	August 18, 2025
	Agenda Item:	7	Roll Call:	25-1098
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the execution of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Agreement for the Guthrie Avenue Viaduct over Union Pacific Railroad Rehabilitation.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of Public Highway Overpass Agreement with UPRR for the rehabilitation of Guthrie Avenue Viaduct over the railroad. The agreement addresses plans and specifications for rehabilitation of the viaduct, terms for Contractor's Right of Entry, insurance requirements, terms for maintenance and repairs, and terms for reimbursement to UPRR for railroad force account work required for the project reviews, coordination, and construction. Costs for work performed by the railroad will be based on actual expenses.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$97,000 (Estimated)

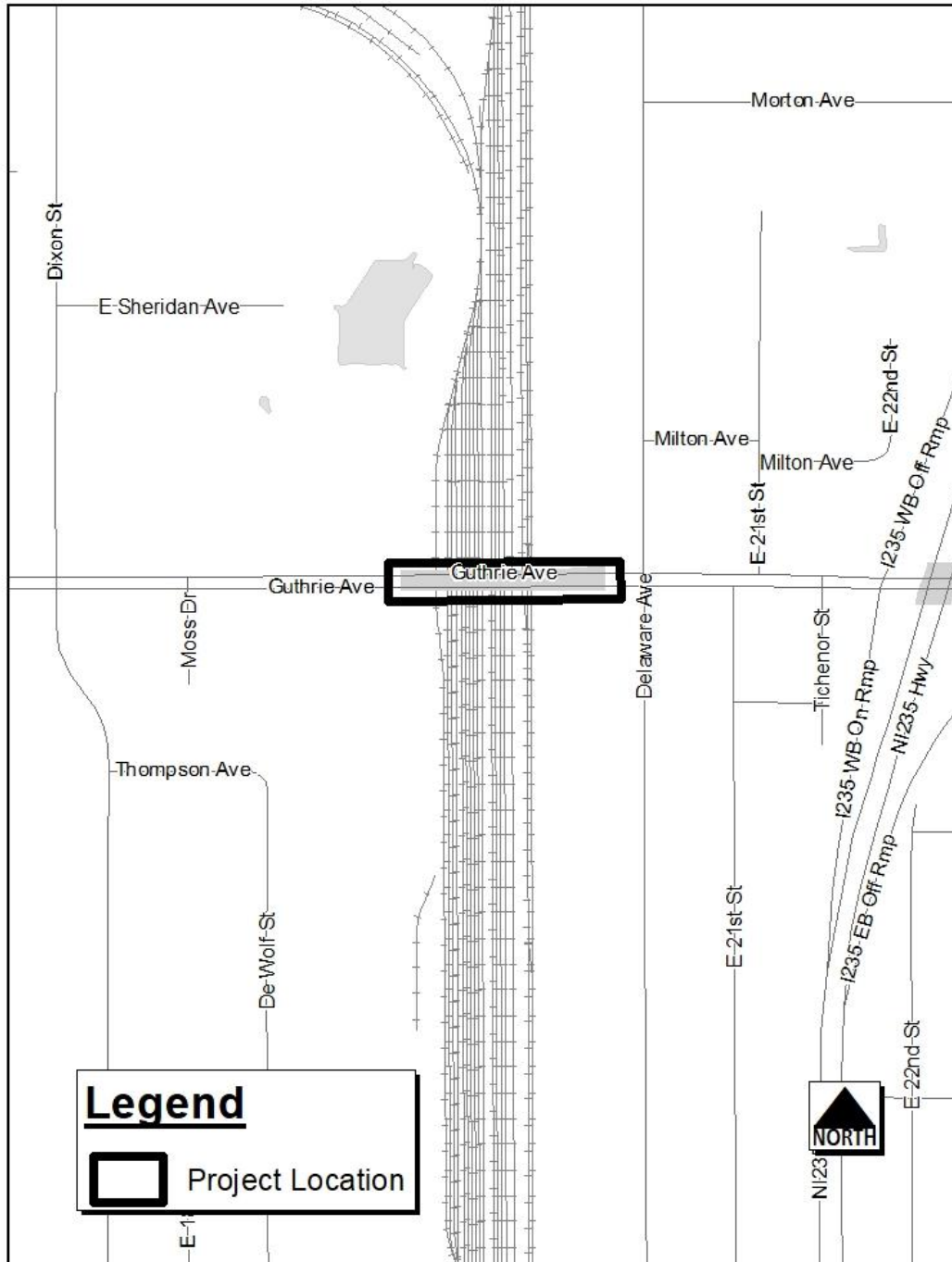
Funding Source: 2025-26 CIP, Page 48, Guthrie Ave. Bridge over Union Pacific RR, BR058, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On May 17, 1976, the Chicago and Northwestern Transportation Company, now UPRR, and the City of Des Moines entered into an agreement regarding the construction of Guthrie Avenue overpass structure that carries vehicular traffic traversing on Guthrie Avenue over the railroad tracks.
 - The City of Des Moines desires to rehabilitate and make structural repairs to the viaduct and enter into a public highway overpass agreement to allow for rehabilitation of the Guthrie Avenue Viaduct and thereby terminate the original 1976 agreement.
- This project provides for the rehabilitation of the Guthrie Avenue Viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad. Work included in this project is anticipated to consist of deck repairs, deck overlay, barrier and rail rehabilitation. The bridge cross-section will be re-configured for two (2) lanes of traffic in each direction, a 10-foot-wide shared use path along the south side, and a 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the north side. Lane widths will be reduced to 11.5-feet and the existing center median concrete barrier railing will be removed. The roadway approaches will

be reconstructed to align with the new bridge cross-section, which will include intersection improvements at Delaware Avenue and new traffic signals.

- The project is scheduled for an Iowa Department of Transportation construction letting in the spring of 2026 with construction starting later in 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 19, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1089](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the UPRR. ([Council Communication No. 21-325](#)) [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the UPRR. ([Council Communication No. 21-325](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include 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.

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.