

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-397	Meeting:	October 20, 2025
	Agenda Item:	5a	Roll Call:	25-1380
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director, and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: 2nd Avenue Improvements from Court Avenue to I-235 - Receiving bids (11-4-25) and Setting date of hearing (12-8-25). (Construction Estimate - \$2,750,000).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council order construction of the improvement and set dates to receive bids and hold a public hearing, as required by Iowa Code, utilizing the method of financing referenced below. The 2nd Avenue Improvements from Court Avenue to I-235 include:

- resurfacing 2nd Avenue from Locust Street to I-235,
- a lane reduction and lane narrowing from Grand Avenue to I-235 to create a consistent street cross-section of three (3) travel lanes with parking,
- moving the east curb line along 2nd Avenue from Grand Avenue to Center Street to increase the parkway width between the shared-use path and street,
- installation of curb bump outs to shadow parking and shorten pedestrian crossings along the entire corridor,
- removal of peak-hour parking restrictions north of Grand Avenue,
- adding 37 on-street parking spaces between Locust Street and Crocker Street,
- adding a dedicated loading zone space for Casey's Center, and
- lower the speed limit of 2nd Avenue between Watson Powell Jr. Way and I-235 from 35 miles-per-hour to 25 miles-per-hour.

This project is necessary to improve pedestrian safety, provide better roadway lane continuity, and to add on-street parking to certain locations along the 2nd Avenue corridor.

FISCAL IMPACT:

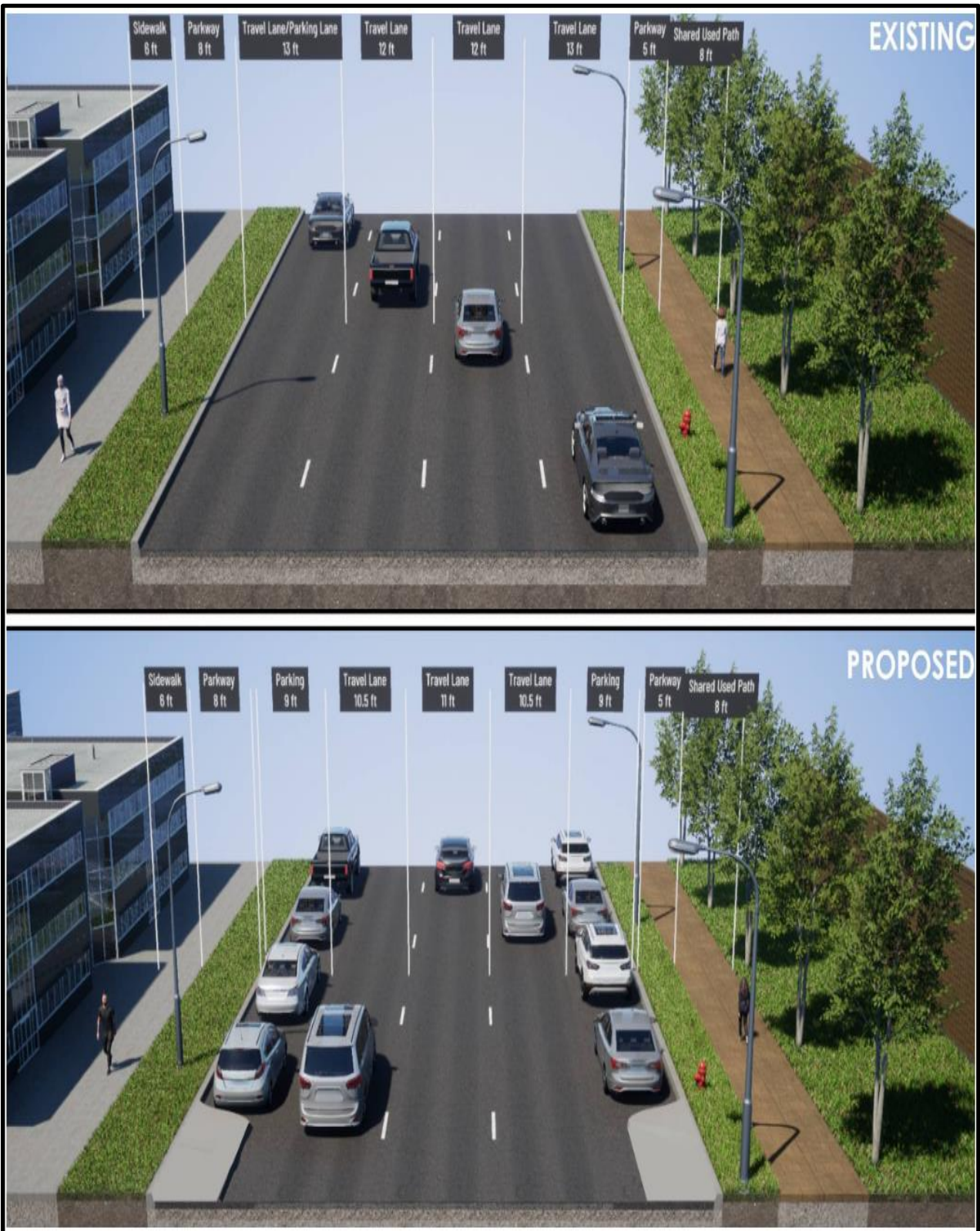
Amount: \$2,750,000 City Engineer's Estimate

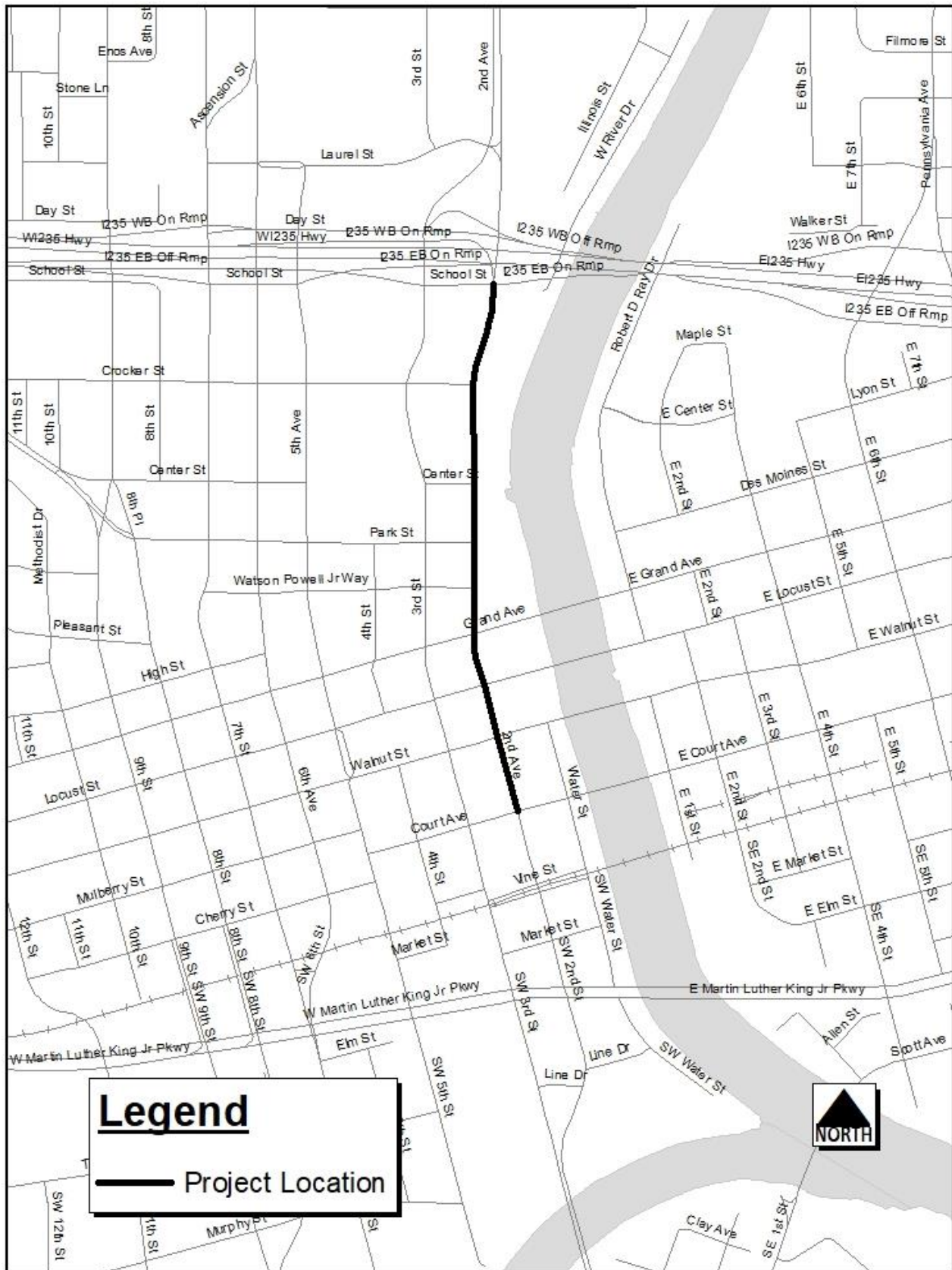
Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 148, 2nd Avenue Improvements – Court Avenue to I-235, ST305, Tax Increment Funding Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the 2nd Avenue Improvements from Court Avenue to I-235, Activity ID 06-2023-007. The improvement includes Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement, PCC curb & gutter, Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), pavement removal, PCC driveways and sidewalk, storm sewer, intakes, modified subbase, pavement marking, traffic control, traffic signal modifications, trees, and other incidental items, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 676-186/322, located on 2nd Avenue from Court Avenue to I-235.
- The estimated construction cost is \$2,750,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.
- 2nd Avenue between Grand Avenue and I-235 has four (4) travel lanes, each ranging from 12-feet to 13-feet in width. Parking along 2nd Avenue is allowed in some locations but is also restricted during afternoon peak hours. Casey's Center, located between Center Street and Crocker Street on the west side of 2nd Avenue, often closes the curb lane of 2nd Avenue for loading/unloading during events. This creates an inconsistent roadway cross-section depending on the time of day or during events which can cause vehicles to be "trapped" in a lane and/or make abrupt lane changes.
- The 2nd Avenue Improvements from Court Avenue to Interstate 235 will reduce the number of travel lanes from four (4) to three (3), creating a consistent cross-section of three (3) travel lanes with parking on either side. The fourth travel lane is not needed, and this project will provide a consistent cross section with 2nd Avenue south of Grand Avenue. This improvement will add an estimated 37 on-street parking spaces between Locust Street and Crocker Street and add a dedicated loading zone that can be used by Casey's Center. This improvement will also move the 2nd Avenue east curbline between Grand Avenue and Center Street, providing an increased parkway between the existing shared-use path and the street.
- City staff also propose to lower the speed limit of 2nd Avenue between Watson Powell Jr. Way and I-235 from 35 miles-per-hour to 25 miles-per-hour.
- Concrete curb extensions (bump outs) will be constructed at intersections and pedestrian crossings to define the on-street parking and shorten pedestrian crossing distances across 2nd Avenue. The 2nd Avenue roadway pavement will also be resurfaced with a new HMA surface.
- Construction of this project is anticipated to start in spring 2026 and be completed in spring 2027.

- The graphics below show the existing 2nd Avenue cross section (top graphic) and the proposed 2nd Avenue cross section (bottom graphic).





PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 18, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0394](#)

Action: [Approving](#) exception to Request for Proposal (RFP) process for good cause and approving Professional Services Agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for design services for 2nd Avenue Improvements from Court Avenue to Interstate 235, not to exceed \$147,778. ([Council Communication No. 24-114](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Mandelbaum. Motion Carried 6-0.

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.

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