COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	Number:	**25-456**	Meeting:	**December 8, 2025**
	Agenda Item:	**8b**	Roll Call:	**25-1583**
	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: E. Court Avenue Reconstruction from E. 7th Street to E. 14th Street - Receiving bids, (12-23-25), and Setting date of hearing, (1-26-26). (Construction Estimate - $4,775,000).

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. This project provides for full reconstruction of East Court Avenue from East 7th Street to east of East 14th Street, including sidewalk, buffered bike lane, storm sewer, and water main improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: $4,775,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: 2025-26 CIP, Page 162, LOSST Street Improvements, ST800, Being: $4,381,150 Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST) Funding and the remaining $393,850 from Des Moines Water Works

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the E. Court Avenue Reconstruction from E. 7th Street to E. 14th Street, Activity ID 06-2023-012. The improvement includes the reconstruction of East Court Avenue with Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) curb and gutter, PCC bike lanes, PCC sidewalk and driveways, Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) paving, modified subbase, removals, storm sewer, subdrain, grading, water main construction, erosion control and restoration, and other incidental items, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 677-172/323, located along East Court Avenue from East 7th Street to east of East 14th Street.

- The estimated construction cost is $4,775,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.

- East Court Avenue from the Des Moines River to East 14th Street needs complete pavement reconstruction. There are also existing sidewalk curb ramps along East Court Avenue that need to be improved to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Des Moines Water Works also needs to replace a water main under East Court Avenue.

- Multiple mixed-use developments have recently been constructed along or near East Court Avenue. Additionally, traffic volumes have declined since the construction of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway; therefore, the existing street cross section should be improved to meet the current and future needs of the corridor.

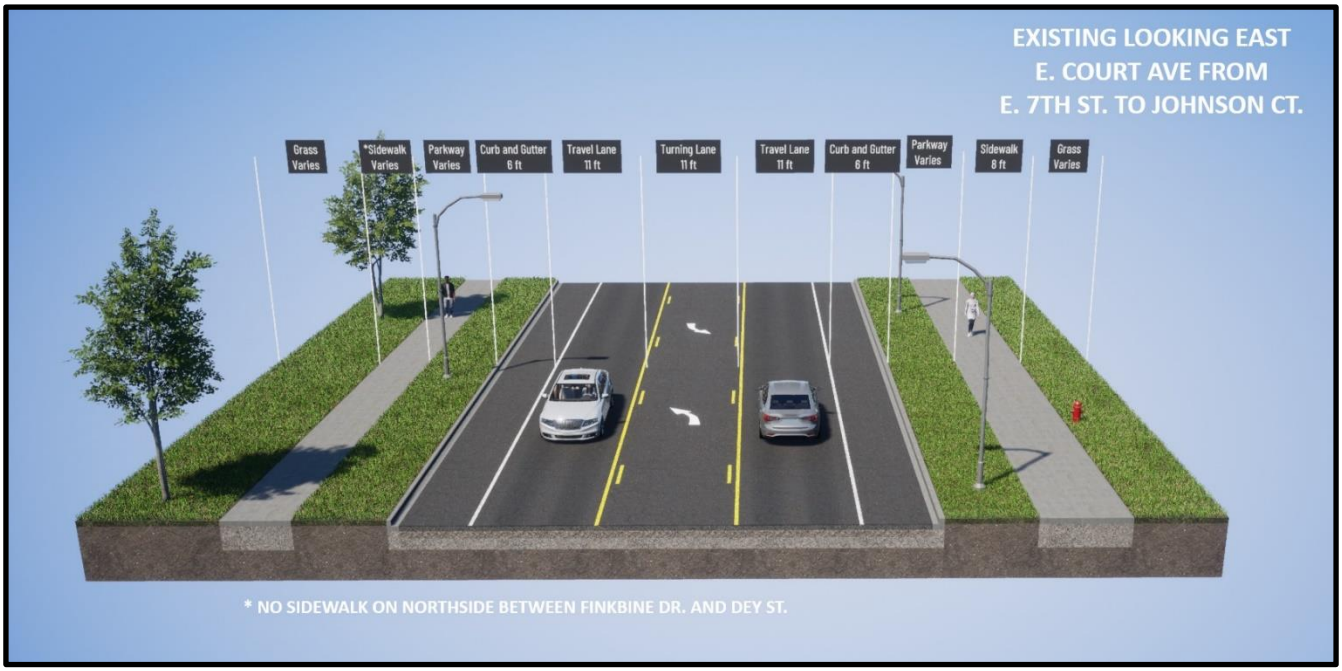
- A virtual public meeting was held via Zoom on June 9, 2021, to present the initial proposed project concepts. Another virtual public meeting was held via Zoom on November 9, 2022, to present the final concepts and anticipated construction staging for Phase 1.

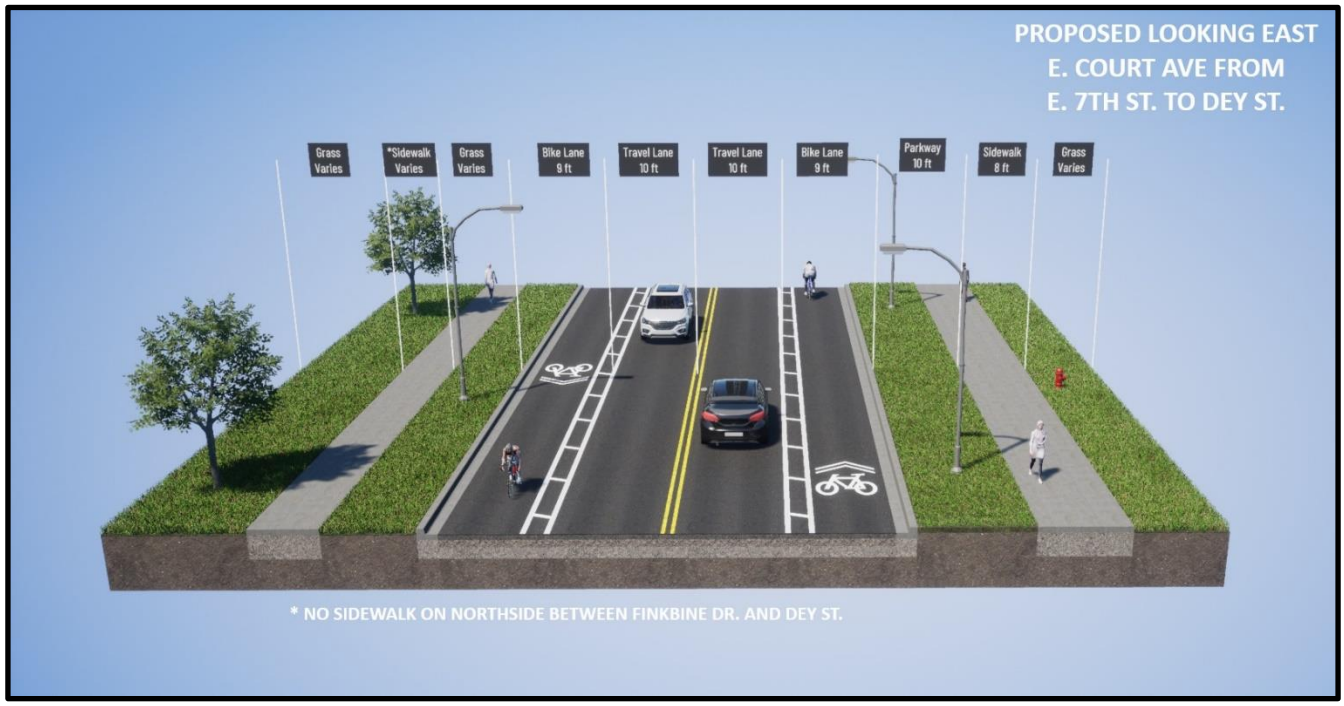
- Due to the project size of the overall project, East Court Avenue is being constructed in two (2) separate phases:
    - Phase 1 – East Court Avenue from Des Moines River to east of East 7th Street (Finkbine Drive) – *Completed Fall 2024*
    - Phase 2 – East Court Avenue from east of East 7th Street (Finkbine Drive) to East 14th Street.

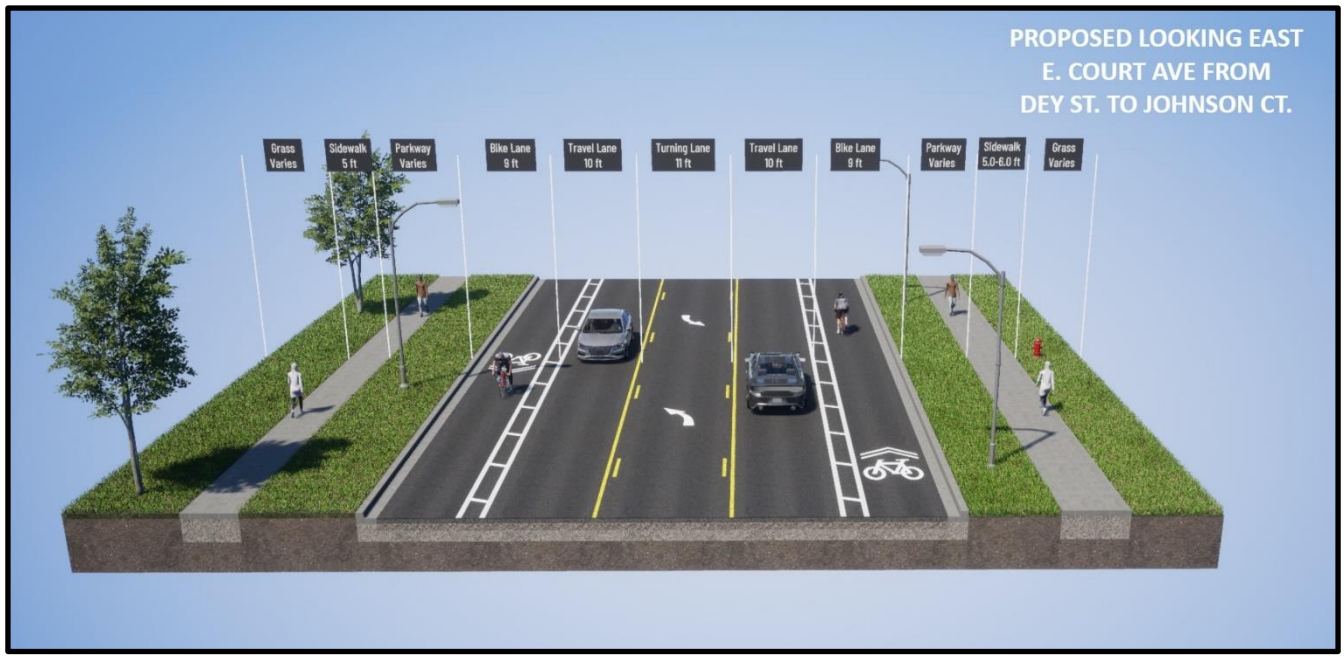
- Phase 2 of this project will have a similar cross section to Phase 1, improving the East Court Avenue cross section to include one (1) travel lane in each direction with buffered bike lanes on both sides of the street.

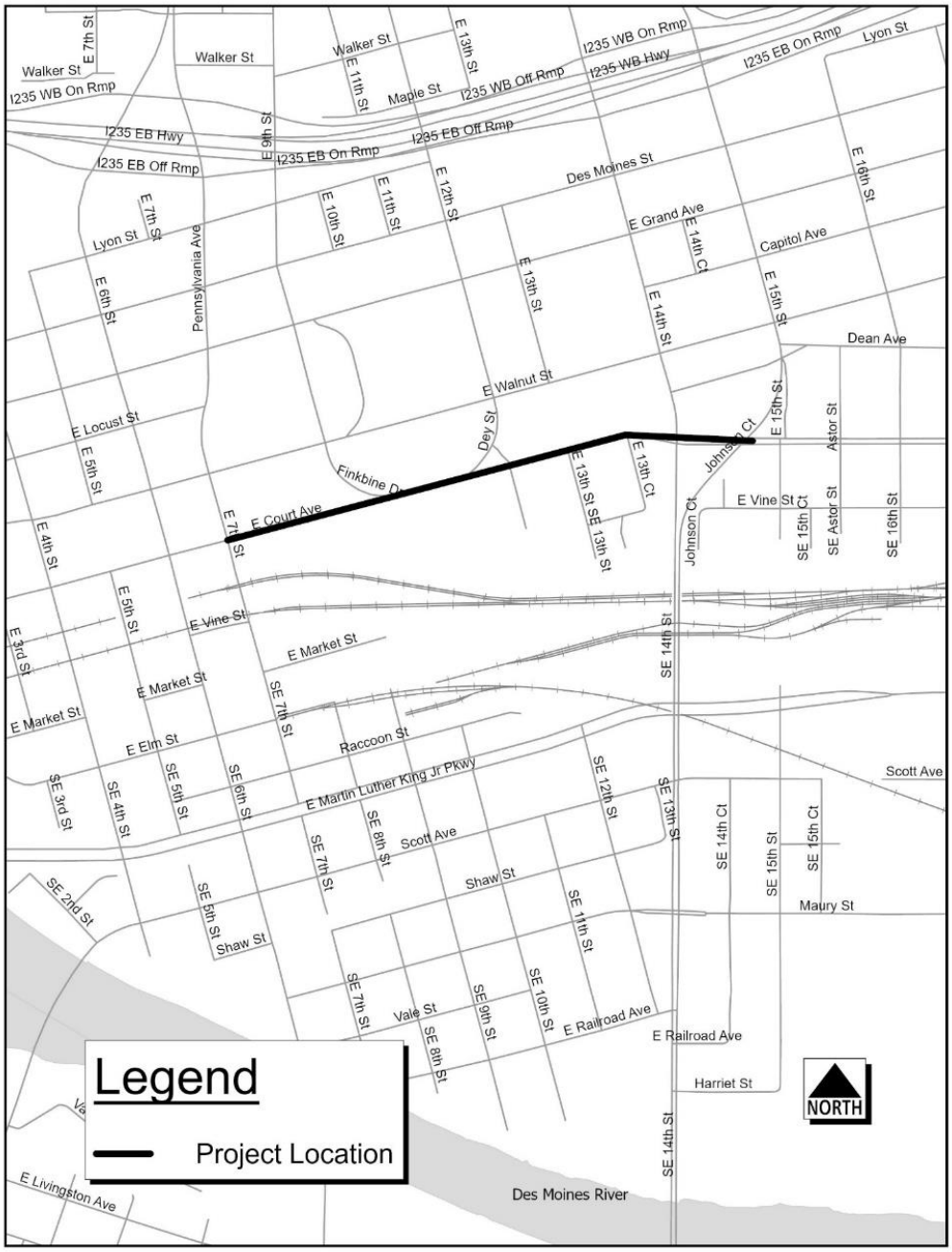
- Construction of Phase 2 is anticipated to begin in spring 2026 and be completed in spring 2027.

- The graphics below show the existing and proposed cross sections for this project.




PROPOSED LOOKING EAST
E. COURT AVE FROM
E. 7TH ST. TO DEY ST.
Grass Varies
*Sidewalk Varies
Grass Varies
Bike Lane 9 ft
Travel Lane 10 ft
Travel Lane 10 ft
Bike Lane 9 ft
Parkway 10 ft
Sidewalk 8 ft
Grass Varies
* NO SIDEWALK ON NORTHSIDE BETWEEN FINKBINE DR. AND DEY ST.


PROPOSED LOOKING EAST
E. COURT AVE FROM
DEY ST. TO JOHNSON CT.
Grass Varies
Sidewalk 5 ft
Parkway Varies
Bike Lane 9 ft
Travel Lane 10 ft
Turning Lane 11 ft
Travel Lane 10 ft
Bike Lane 9 ft
Parkway Varies
Sidewalk 5.0-6.0 ft
Grass Varies



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 9, 2023

Roll Call Number: 23-0067

Action: On E. Court Avenue Reconstruction from Des Moines River to E. 7th Street: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder as Jasper Construction Services, Inc., Cliff Rhoads, President, $6,893,459. (Council Communication: 23-015)
Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Second by Gatto. 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.

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