

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



Number:	26-009	Meeting:	January 12, 2026
Agenda Item:	7b	Roll Call:	26-0014
Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: E Locust Streetscape Repair from Des Moines River to East (E) 7th Street - Receiving bids, (1-27-26), and Setting date of hearing, (2-23-26). (Construction Estimate - \$1,750,000).

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.

This project will make repairs to the streetscape along E Locust Street, including:

- Replacing 91 county plaques (all except eight [8] county plaques in front of Staybridge Suites).
- Removing settled or defective brick banding.
- Replacing defective sidewalk sections at select locations.
- Replacing sidewalk curb ramps with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalk curb ramps.
- Resurfacing the street by milling the top couple of inches of asphalt and paving a new hot-mix asphalt (HMA) surface.
- Removing defective bicycle racks.
- E 4th Street and E Locust Street Intersection Improvements - removing the existing traffic signals, adding curb extensions (bumpouts) at all four (4) intersection corners to shorten pedestrian crossing distances, and adding an all-way stop control (four [4] stop signs) at the intersection.
- E 7th Street and E Locust Street Intersection Improvements - removing the existing traffic signals, adding curb extensions (bumpouts) at all corners of the intersection to shorten pedestrian crossing distances, and adding an all-way stop control (three [3] stop signs) at the intersection.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,750,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 141, E Locust Streetscape, ST297, Being: G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

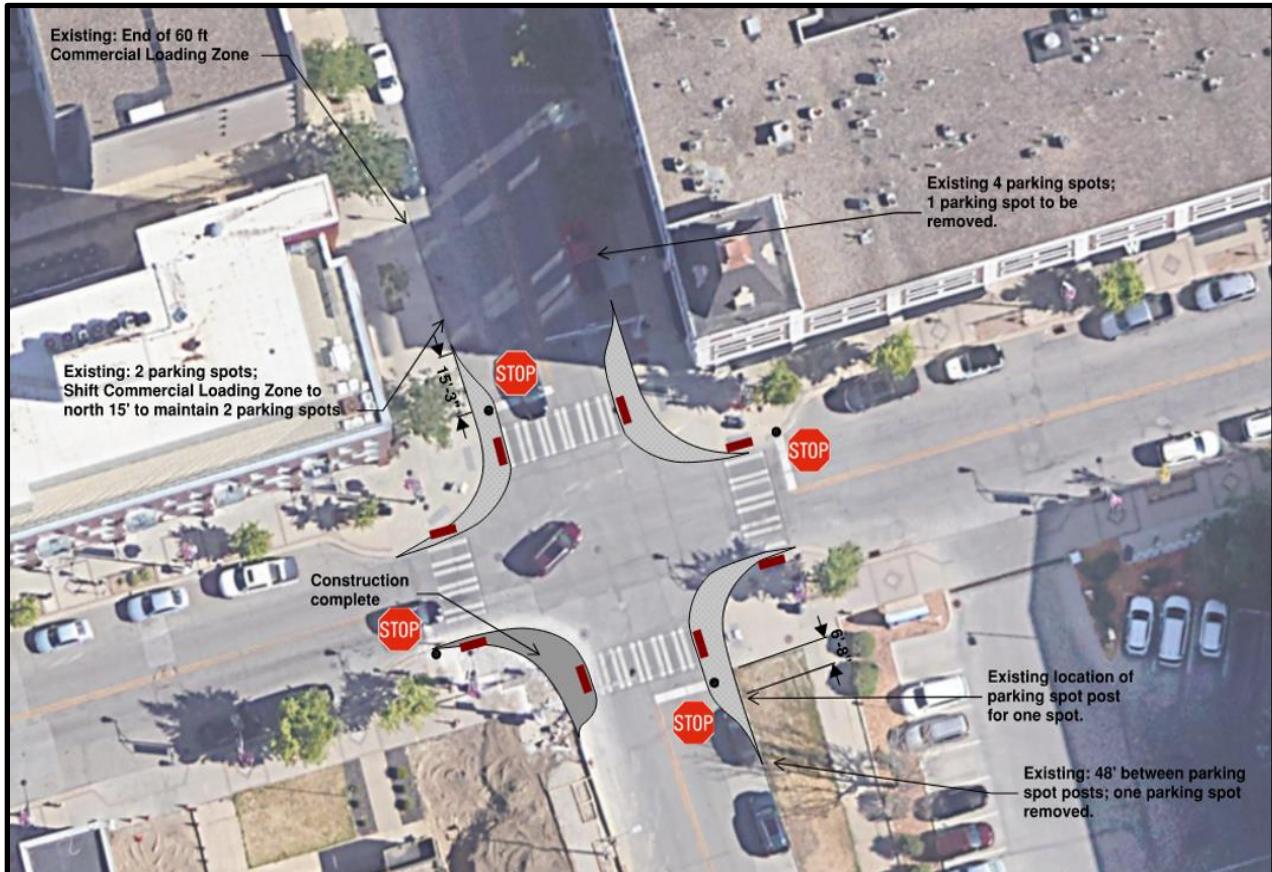
- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the E Locust Streetscape Repair from Des Moines River to E 7th Street, Activity ID 04-2022-003. The improvement includes removals, Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) curb, PCC sidewalks, county name plaque relocation and replacement, full-depth patches, HMA milling and overlay, traffic control, pavement markings, sign installation, erosion control, restoration, seeding, and other associated work, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 679-001/043, located along E Locust Street from the Des Moines River to E 7th Street.
- The estimated construction cost is \$1,750,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.
- This project is anticipated to begin in spring 2026 and be completed in fall 2026.
- The E Locust Street Streetscape in Historic East Village was originally constructed in 2001 and 2002. A few of the county plaques are missing and several county plaques are broken and/or are illegible. Sections of sidewalk along the streetscape have defects and need replacement. Sections of brick pavers are damaged or settled.
- This past summer, the City updated the existing decorative street and pedestrian lighting by replacing the light fixtures with new LED light fixtures that are much easier to maintain, repairing the light pole bases and painting the light poles.
- This project will make repairs to the streetscape along E Locust Street from the Des Moines River to E 7th Street that include:
 - Replacing 91 county plaques (all except eight [8] county plaques in front of Staybridge Suites).
 - Removing settled or defective brick banding.
 - Replacing defective sidewalk sections at select locations.
 - Replacing sidewalk curb ramps with ADA-compliant sidewalk curb ramps.
 - Resurfacing the street by milling the top couple of inches of asphalt and paving a new HMA surface.
 - Removing defective bicycle racks.



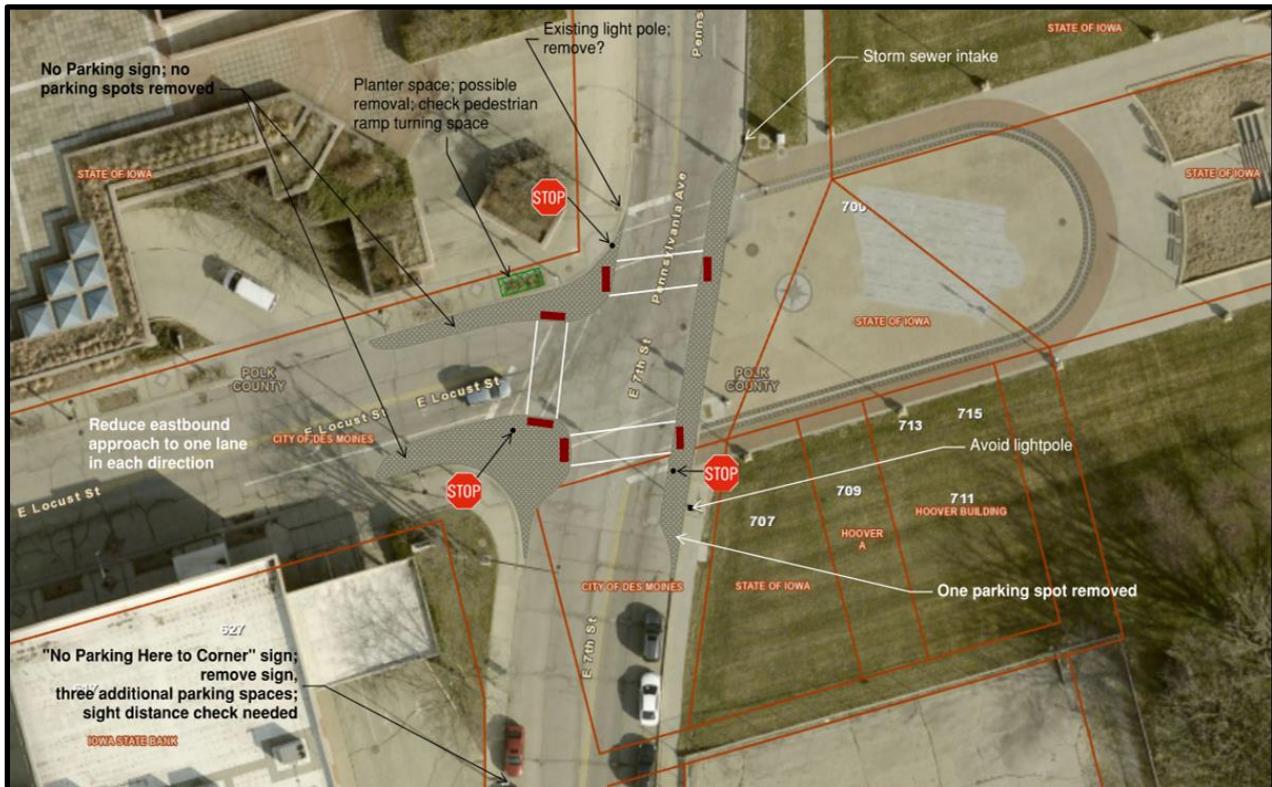
Above Left Image: Existing settled brick banding, sidewalk and county plaque.

Above Right Image: Proposed brick banding removed and sidewalk replacement with new county plaque.

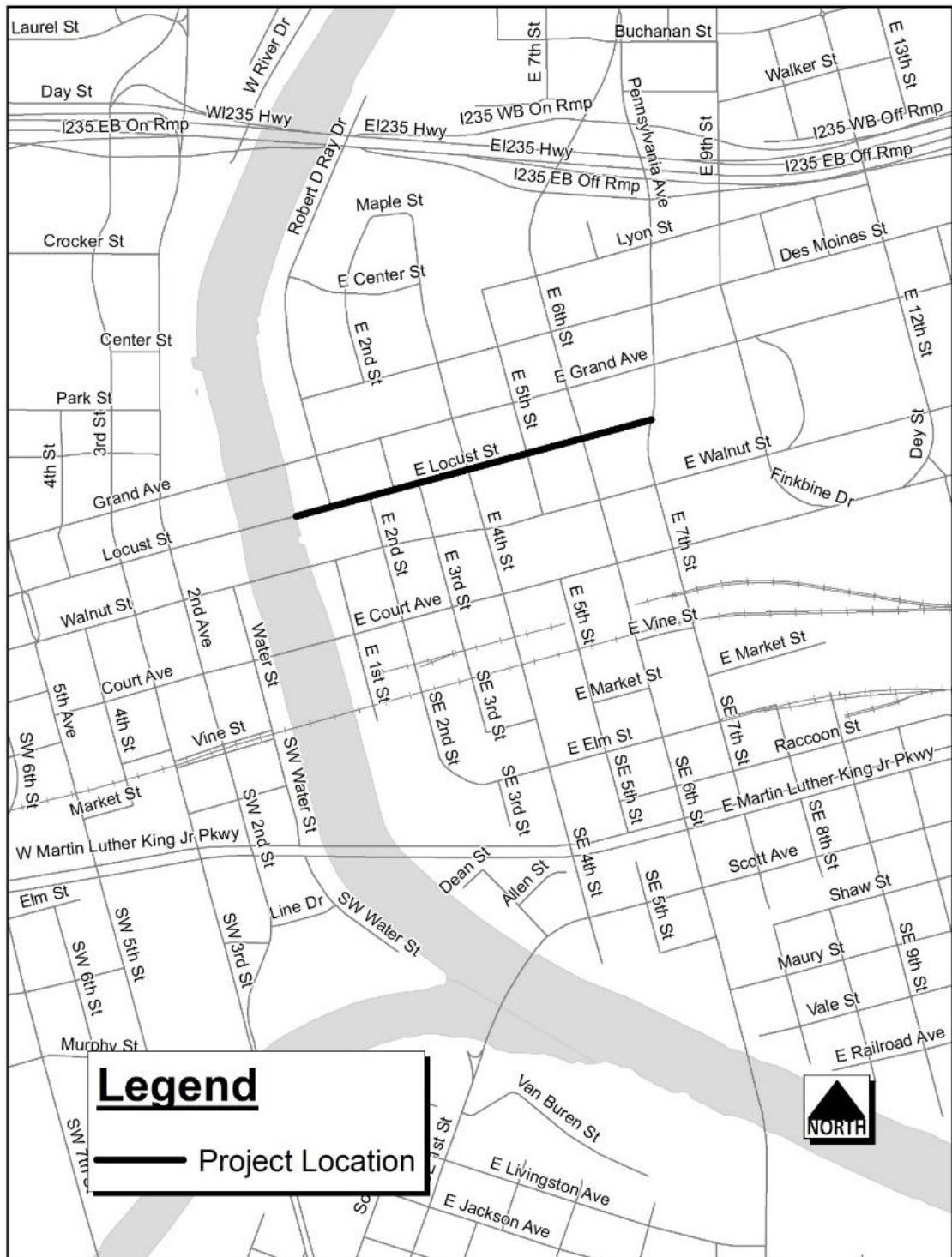
- A public open house was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 3:00PM to 6:00PM at the Walnut Creek Community Church at 301 E Locust Street to allow the public to review the plans for the proposed streetscape improvements.
- City Engineering staff also presented the project improvements at the Historic East Village Neighborhood Association Board Meeting on July 21, 2025.
- This project also includes making the following intersection improvements (see graphics included below):
 - E 4th Street and E Locust Street - removing the existing traffic signals, adding curb extensions (bumpouts) at all four (4) intersection corners to shorten pedestrian crossing distances, and adding all-way stop control (four [4] stop signs) at the intersection.
 - E 7th Street and E Locust Street - removing the existing traffic signals, adding curb extensions (bumpouts) at all corners of the intersection to shorten pedestrian crossing distances, and adding all-way stop control (three [3] stop signs) at the intersection.



Above Graphic: Proposed intersection improvements at E Locust Street and E 4th Street.



Above Graphic: Proposed intersection improvements at E Locust Street and E 7th Street.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 29, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-1303](#)

Action: [Agreement](#) with Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) for park, open space, and streetscape maintenance of Principal Riverwalk, Hansen Triangle, Western Gateway Park, E Locust Streetscape, and Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Parkway. ([Council Communication No. 25-346](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 21, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0624](#) and [25-0625](#)

Action: [On](#) E Locust Street Lighting Improvements: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating the lowest responsive, responsible bidder as Kline Electric, Inc. d/b/a Heartland Underground Solutions (Shane T. Kline, President), \$245,990. ([Council Communication No. 25-151](#)) Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

(A) [Approval](#) of contract and bond. Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Second by Voss. 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.