

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-060	Meeting:	February 23, 2026
	Agenda Item:	9	Roll Call:	26-0224
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Cooperative Agreement and Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP) Agreement for the Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35 project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the IDOT Cooperative Agreement No. 2026-17-052 and U-STEP Agreement No. 1-26-USTEP-002 for the Traffic Signal Replacement project for intersection improvements, including traffic signal replacement and pedestrian curb ramp and sidewalk replacement at Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) and Meredith Drive. The City will also be responsible for the design and construction of a traffic signal replacement at the eastbound I-80/I-35 and Iowa 28/Merle Hay Road interchange ramp terminal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$864,000 Estimated total project costs

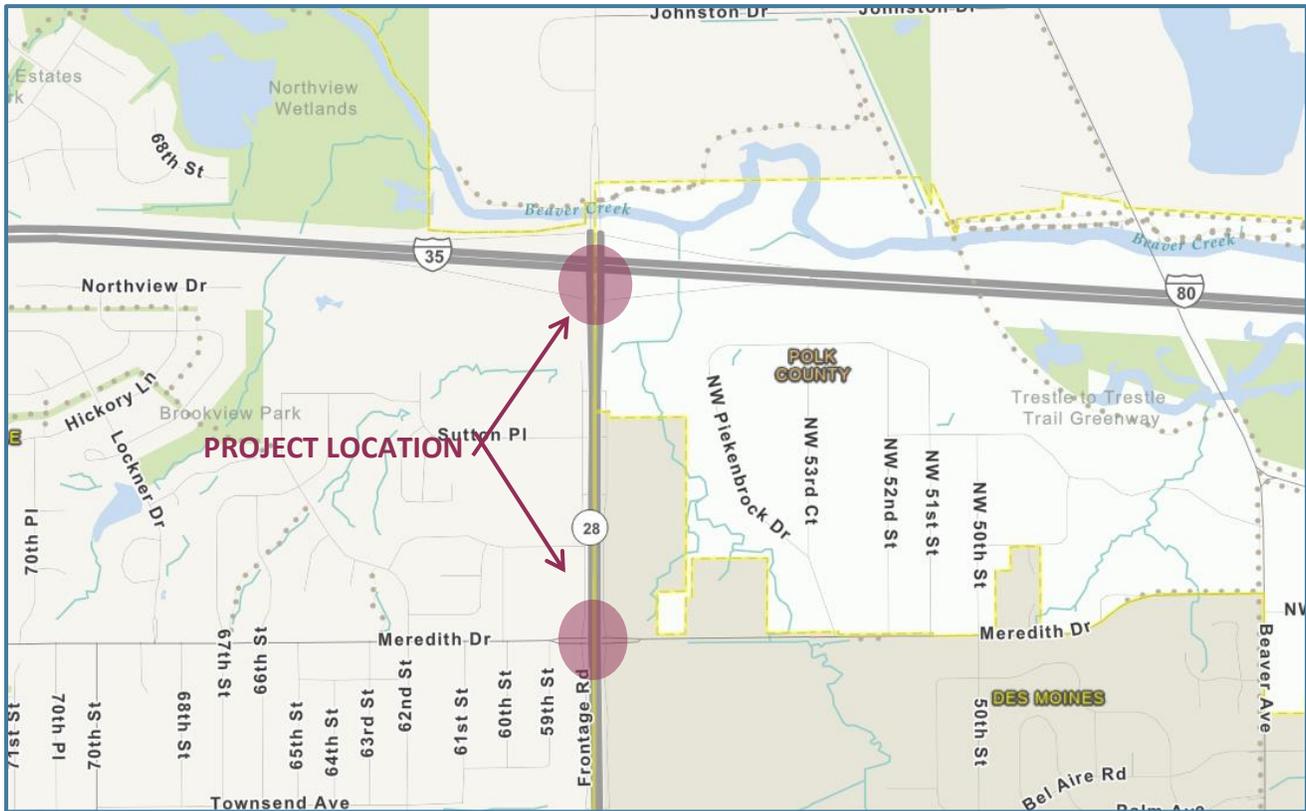
Funding Source:

- **\$200,000 Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP)**
- **\$350,000 Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Cooperative Agreement**
- \$157,000 City of Urbandale
- \$157,000 City of Des Moines, 2026-2027 CIP, Page 172, Traffic Signals – Replacement, TR091

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The U-STEP is a cooperative program for safety or operational improvements on primary road extensions. IDOT makes the funds available for reimbursement and will share eligible construction and right-of-way costs in the ratio of 55% IDOT funds to 45% local funds, up to a maximum amount in IDOT funds of \$200,000 for a “spot improvement” or \$400,000 for a “linear improvement”.

- A “spot improvement” is identified as a limited improvement project such as intersection reconstruction of signalization; and a “linear improvement” is an improvement project such street or highway widening or reconstruction which spans two (2) or more intersections.
- The City of Urbandale and the City of Des Moines jointly requested U-STEP funding for the traffic signal replacement at the Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive intersection due to concerns about the mast arm pole failure on the northeast corner that required a temporary span wire, and the remaining three signal poles exhibiting the beginnings of the same type of failure. Both Cities will evenly split the remaining costs of improvement to this intersection as part of the 28E Agreement with the City of Urbandale.
- The City has been awarded \$200,000 in U-STEP funding for “spot improvement” at the intersection of Merle Hay Road (Iowa 28) and Meredith Drive. The Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35 project includes the replacement of the existing traffic signal and temporary span wire and improvements to the pedestrian curb ramps and sidewalks on the west leg of the intersection.
- As part of our maintenance agreement with IDOT, the City has agreed to design and bid the construction of a traffic signal replacement at the eastbound I-35/I-80 and Iowa 28/Merle Hay Road interchange ramp terminal.
- By Cooperative Agreement No. 2026-17-052, the IDOT will reimburse its share of the project costs, estimated at \$350,000, for designing and constructing the new traffic signals. The total amount paid by the IDOT shall be determined by the actual quantities in place and the accepted bid at the contract letting.
- The IDOT shall accept ownership of and responsibility for energy and maintenance costs of the traffic signal units which lie within the interchange terminals.
- The Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35 project is expected to bid in late Spring 2026, with construction beginning in Fall 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Anticipated future actions related to this project include ordering construction, 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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