

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	Number:	<b>26-081</b>	Meeting:	<b>March 9, 2026</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>6c</b>	Roll Call:	<input type="text"/>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad - Receiving bids, (3-17-26), and Setting date of hearing, (4-6-26). (Construction Estimate - \$6,316,803.75).

## 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 includes rehabilitation of the Guthrie Avenue Bridge over Union Pacific Railroad, including the following major items of work:

- Removal and replacement of the concrete bridge deck overlay.
- Replacement of bridge expansion joints.
- Repainting structural steel.
- Replacement of the concrete barrier walls and medians along the bridge.
- Isolated structural repairs to the bridge deck.
- Modifying the cross section to add a 10-foot-wide multi-use sidepath along the south side of the bridge.
- Installation of structural steel pedestrian handrailing and chain link fencing along the bridge.

This project also includes intersection improvements at Guthrie Avenue and Delaware Avenue, including reconstruction of the intersection pavement and replacement of the traffic signals. The project will be completed in several construction stages to maintain traffic in each direction.

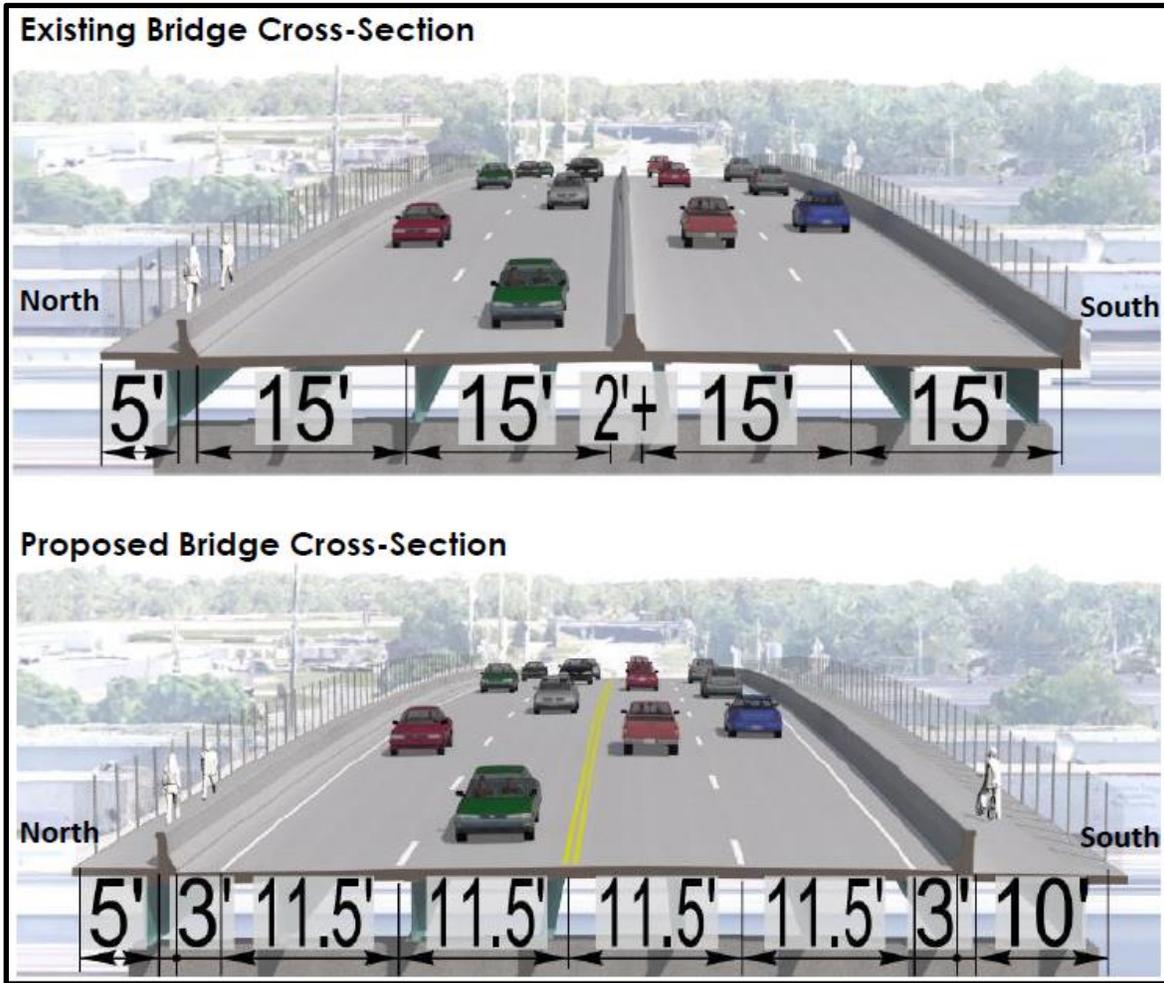
## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$6,316,803.75 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: 2025-26 CIP, Page 48, Guthrie Ave Bridge over Union Pacific Railroad, BR058, including \$2,000,000 in Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding under Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement No. 1-22-STPU-042

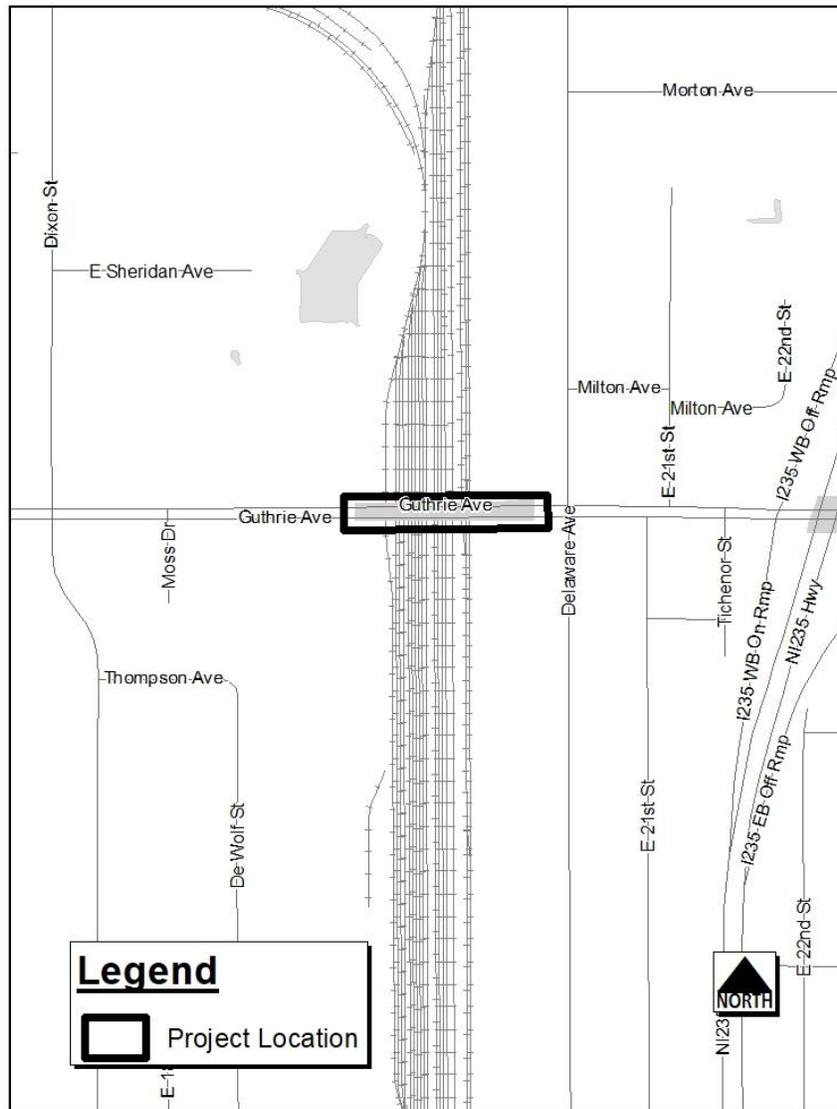
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The Engineering Department has prepared plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad, Activity ID 12-2020-001. The improvement includes structural repairs and reconfiguring the bridge cross-section to accommodate a 10-foot-wide multi-use sidepath section along the south side of the bridge. The necessary bridge work to accommodate the sidepath includes containment and coordination for working over railroad right-of-way, removal of bridge barrier rails, removal and replacement of bridge expansion joints, steel bearing repairs, bridge painting of bearings and beams, removing and replacing deck sections, reinforcing steel and structural concrete, and construction of new sidewalks, railings and fences. The reconfigured bridge cross-section will require the approach roadway pavement to be removed and reconstructed, including new concrete pavement, new traffic signalization at Delaware Avenue, new sidewalks, traffic control and traffic staging, temporary traffic signals, temporary pavement, pavement markings and erosion control, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 678-225/373, located on Guthrie Avenue over the Union Pacific Railroad, west of Delaware Avenue.
- The estimated construction cost is \$6,316,803.75. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.
- The Guthrie Avenue bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad was constructed in 1978. In 2015, this bridge was listed as a high priority repair and a targeted joint replacement and strengthening project was completed, however a more extensive rehabilitation project was postponed. The 2019 Bridge Inspection Report continues to list the condition of the bridge as "Fair/Poor" with chloride contaminated concrete of the deck and sidewalks, and the concrete barrier rails nearing the end of useful life.
- The traffic signals at Guthrie Avenue and Delaware Avenue were constructed in 1978 and need replacement.
- The City also has been working on a plan to construct a Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) multi-use sidepath on the south side of Guthrie Avenue from Glenbrook Drive to Hubbell Avenue in three (3) phases:
  - Phase 1 – Guthrie Avenue from East 21st Street to Hubbell Avenue was completed in the fall of 2024.
  - Phase 2 – Guthrie Avenue from the west edge of the viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad to East 21st Street, is scheduled for construction as part of this project, Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad.
  - Phase 3 – Guthrie Avenue from Glenbrook Drive to Moss Drive is anticipated to start construction in the spring of 2026 and be completed in fall 2026. On February 23, 2026, City Council held Hearing on the plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder, and awarded the construction contract.



Above Graphic - existing bridge cross section (top) and proposed conceptual bridge cross section (bottom)

- Construction of the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad project is anticipated to begin in spring 2026 and be completed in fall 2027.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: March 27, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0371](#) & [23-0372](#)

Action: Items regarding the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad project:

- (A) [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation Agreement number 1-22-STPU-042 for the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over the Union Pacific Railroad, which rescinds IDOT Agreement number 1-21-STBG-SWAP-017. ([Council Communication No. 23-139](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.
- (B) [Authorization](#) to proceed with acquisition of the necessary property interests for the Guthrie Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation over Union Pacific Railroad. ([Council Communication No. 23-142](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

**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 second floor of T.M. Franklin Cownie City Administration Building, 1200 Locust Street. 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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).