


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-108	Meeting:	March 23, 2026
	Agenda Item:	39	Roll Call:	26-0397
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director, and Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Hearing on Southwest 1st Street Bridge Lighting Improvements: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder as Baker Electric, Inc.: (Cory Sloss, President), \$179,250.

SYNOPSIS:

This is a public hearing to allow for public input on the Southwest 1st Street Bridge Lighting Improvements and take the necessary actions as required by Iowa Code to authorize a contract for construction of the proposed project. This project adds bridge aesthetic lighting to complement the previously completed urban park area on the Southwest 1st Street Bridge over the Raccoon River known as Riverside Bridge Park. The aesthetic lighting features 32 light emitting diode (LED) lights to illuminate the exterior facade of the arch bridge, dimmable overhead lighting, and lighting for the existing shade structure. All lighting will be controllable through an interface that is compatible with existing control systems.

FISCAL IMPACT:

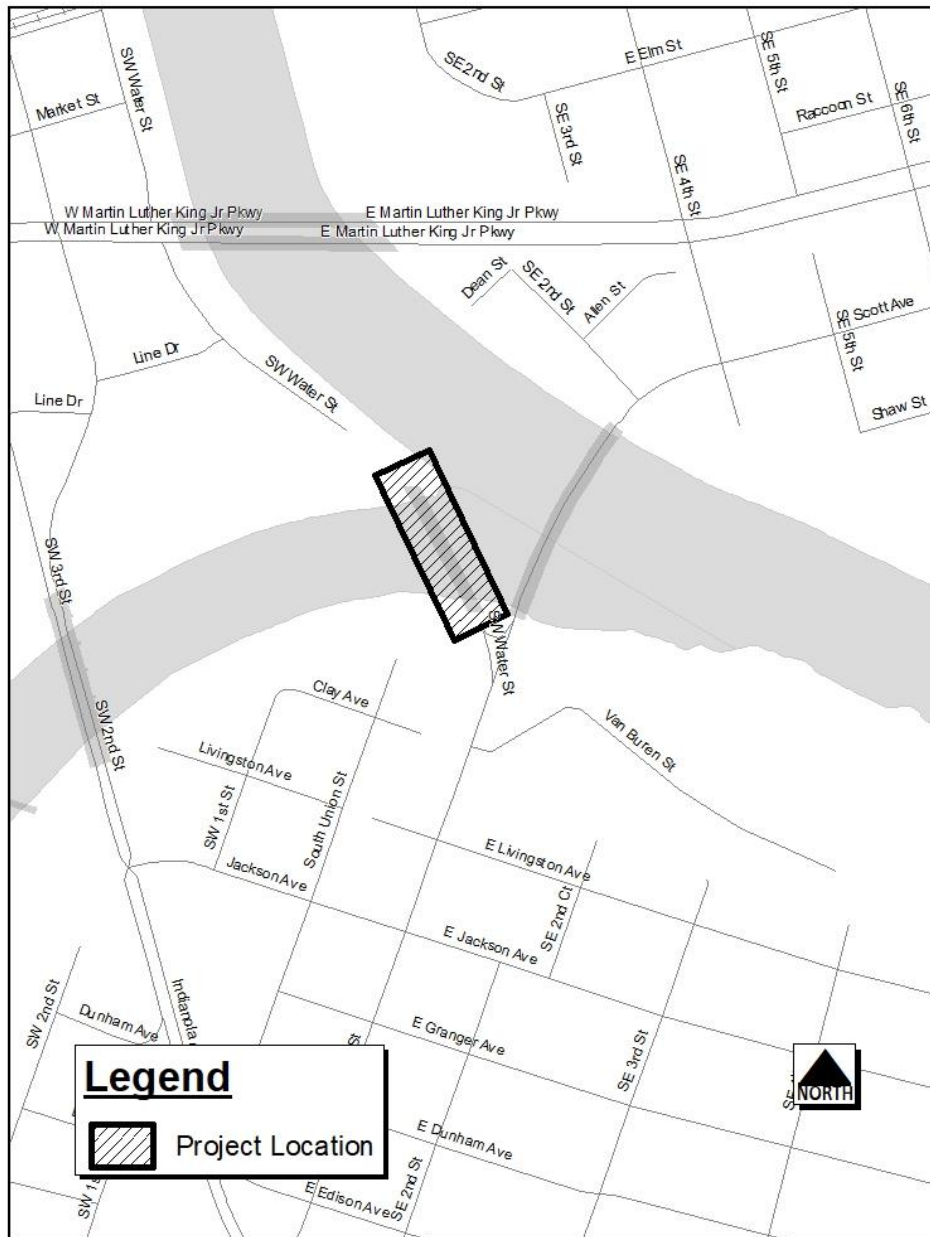
Amount: \$179,250 Construction Contract (\$188,500 City Engineer's Estimate)

Funding Source: 2025-26 CIP, Page 75, Multi-Use Trails, PK045

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On February 9, 2026, under Roll Call No. 26-0156, the City Council received and filed plans, specifications, form of contract documents, and City Engineer's estimate for the construction of the Southwest 1st Street Bridge Lighting Improvements. Before the City Council can enter into a contract, it must hold a public hearing and approve the proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents and engineer's estimate for the construction of the Southwest 1st Street Bridge Lighting Improvements, Activity ID 11-2026-005. The improvement includes adding 32-LED aesthetic tenon arm lights on the exterior sides of the arch bridge, upgrade the overhead deck lighting to dimmable lighting, add LED lighting to the existing shade structure, all necessary conduit, wiring, and new control cabinets, traffic control, and mobilization, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 679-044/053, located on the Southwest 1st Street Bridge over the Raccoon River.

- Sealed bids for said improvement were submitted by the following bidders:
 - Baker Electric, Inc., Des Moines, IA - Low Bid
 - Baker Mechanical, Inc. dba Baker Group, Ankeny, IA
- The bids were received and opened at a public meeting presided over by the City Engineer in the City Council Chambers, 1st Floor, T.M. Franklin Cownie City Administration Building, 1200 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa at 11:00 a.m. on February 24, 2026.
- The City Engineer has determined that the lowest responsive, responsible bid for the construction of said improvement was submitted by Baker Electric, Inc. 111 Jackson Avenue, Des Moines, IA, 50315; (Cory Sloss, President) in the amount of \$179,250, and said bid should be accepted. The Finance Director has determined that funds are available for said improvement as stated above.
- Located near the confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers, the 0.6-acre Southwest 1st Street Bridge was originally built in 1937 and was rehabilitated in 1974. The bridge was converted to a multi-use trail facility in 2005 and was again rehabilitated in 2019 as part of the City's Bridges to Opportunity Project funded by the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. In addition to structural repairs, the bridge deck was rehabilitated providing a flat surface and lighting for future park improvements.
- The Southwest 1st Street Bridge is part of the Meredith Trail providing accessibility and access to 6,279 Des Moines residents within a 10-minute walking distance. In 2023, a bicycle and pedestrian infrared counter stationed on the bridge captured nearly 210,000 trips. In 2025, the same counter documented just over 137,266 trips, with the reduction in usage attributed to park improvement under construction on the bridge deck, levee alterations and construction activities impacting the Carl Voss Trail and Meredith Trail. Following the completion of the park and lighting improvements, annual usage is expected to vastly exceed the 2023 baseline count.
- Upon substantial completion of park improvements on the bridge deck in fall 2025, the park development located on the Southwest 1st Street Bridge was named Riverside Bridge Park.
- The project will utilize MUSCO Sports Lighting's Total Light Control system including their light fixtures and controllers. This system comes with a 10-year comprehensive service warranty.
- MUSCO Sports Lighting is donating fabricated steel mounting arms to the project valued at approximately \$23,000. The mounting arms are to be installed by the contractor.
- Prairie Meadows provided \$130,000 in grant funding to support both the park and lighting improvement on the bridge. Said grant funding was expended as part of the park improvements in the approved grant program, the park improvements were completed in 2025.
- Construction of this project is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 9, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0156](#)

Action: Ordering construction of the following:

(D) [Southwest](#) 1st Street Bridge Lighting Improvements: Receiving of bids, (2-24-26) and Setting date of hearing, (3-23-26), Engineer's estimate, \$188,500. ([Council Communication No. 26-042](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- 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.