


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-131	Meeting:	April 6, 2026
	Agenda Item:	5A	Roll Call:	26-0420
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ordering construction of the following: Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35 - Receiving bids, (4-21-26), and Setting date of hearing, (5-4-26). (Construction Estimate - \$600,000).

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. The project includes replacement of traffic signals at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and the eastbound ramps of I-80/I-35.

FISCAL IMPACT:

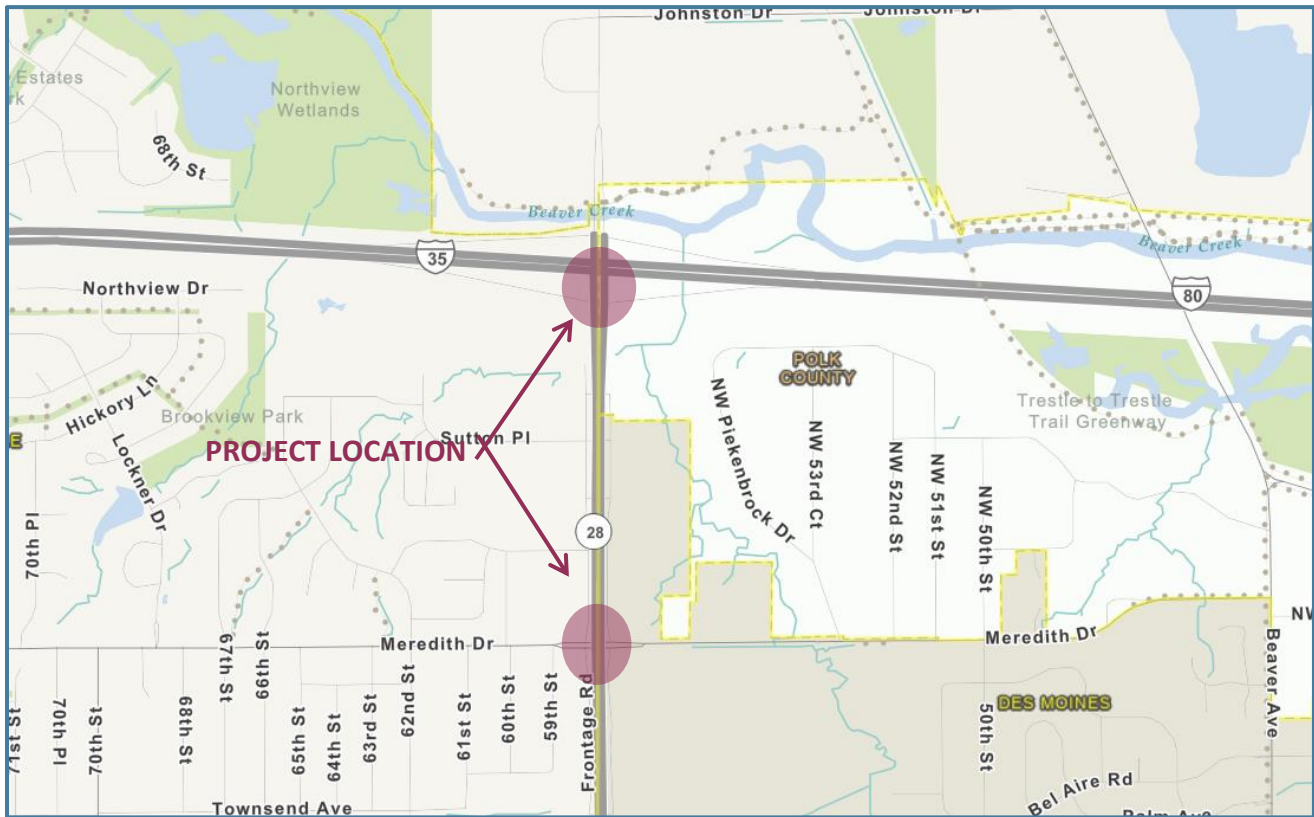
Amount: \$600,000 City Engineer's Estimate

Funding Source: 2025-26 CIP, Page 172, Traffic Signal Replacement, TR091, Being: \$267,292.50 (\$350,000 Max) Per Iowa Department of Transportation Cooperative Agreement IMN-080-3(365)132-OE-77; \$182,990 in Iowa DOT Urban State Traffic Engineering Program (USTEP) Funds UST-028-2(053)--4A-77 (55% of eligible items with a max of \$200,000); \$74,858.75 from the City of Urbandale; and the remaining \$74,858.75 in 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 Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35, Activity ID 04-2026-009. The improvement includes new traffic signal systems, Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) sidewalks, PCC pavement, pavement markings, traffic signage and other incidental items, all in accordance with the contract documents including Plan File No. 681-031/056, located at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and at Merle Hay Road and the eastbound ramps of I-80/I-35 and other locations directed by the City Engineer.
- The estimated construction cost is \$600,000. The proposed plans, specifications, and form of contract documents are available for public inspection in the Des Moines City Engineer's Office.

- The existing traffic signal poles at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and the eastbound ramps of I-80/I-35 need replacement due their condition. The mast arm pole failure on the northeast corner of Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive required a temporary span wire to keep the signalized intersection in service until the signal can be replaced. A mast arm failure at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and the eastbound ramps of I-80/I-35 also required a temporary span wire to keep the signalized intersection in service until the signal can be replaced.
- 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 and have been awarded \$182,990 in Iowa DOT USTEP Funds. 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 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 with new traffic signals at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and at the intersection of Merle Hay Road and the eastbound ramps of I-80/I-35, and improvements to the pedestrian curb ramps and sidewalks on the west leg of the Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive intersection.
- As part of Des Moines' 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 \$267,292.50, 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.
- This project is anticipated to begin in summer 2026 and be completed in winter 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 23, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0224](#)

Action: [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. ([Council Communication No. 26-060](#)) Moved by Gatto 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.

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