


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>26-163</b>	Meeting:	<b>May 4, 2026</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>37</b>	Roll Call:	<b>26-0588</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Hearing on Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35: Resolution approving plans, specifications, form of contract documents, engineer's estimate, receive and file bids, and designating lowest responsible bidder as Van Maanen Electric, Inc.; Nathan Van Maanen, President, \$597,000.

## SYNOPSIS:

This is a public hearing to allow for public input on the Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35 and take the necessary actions as required by Iowa Code to authorize a contract for construction of the proposed project. 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: \$597,000 Construction Contract (\$600,000 City Engineer's Estimate)

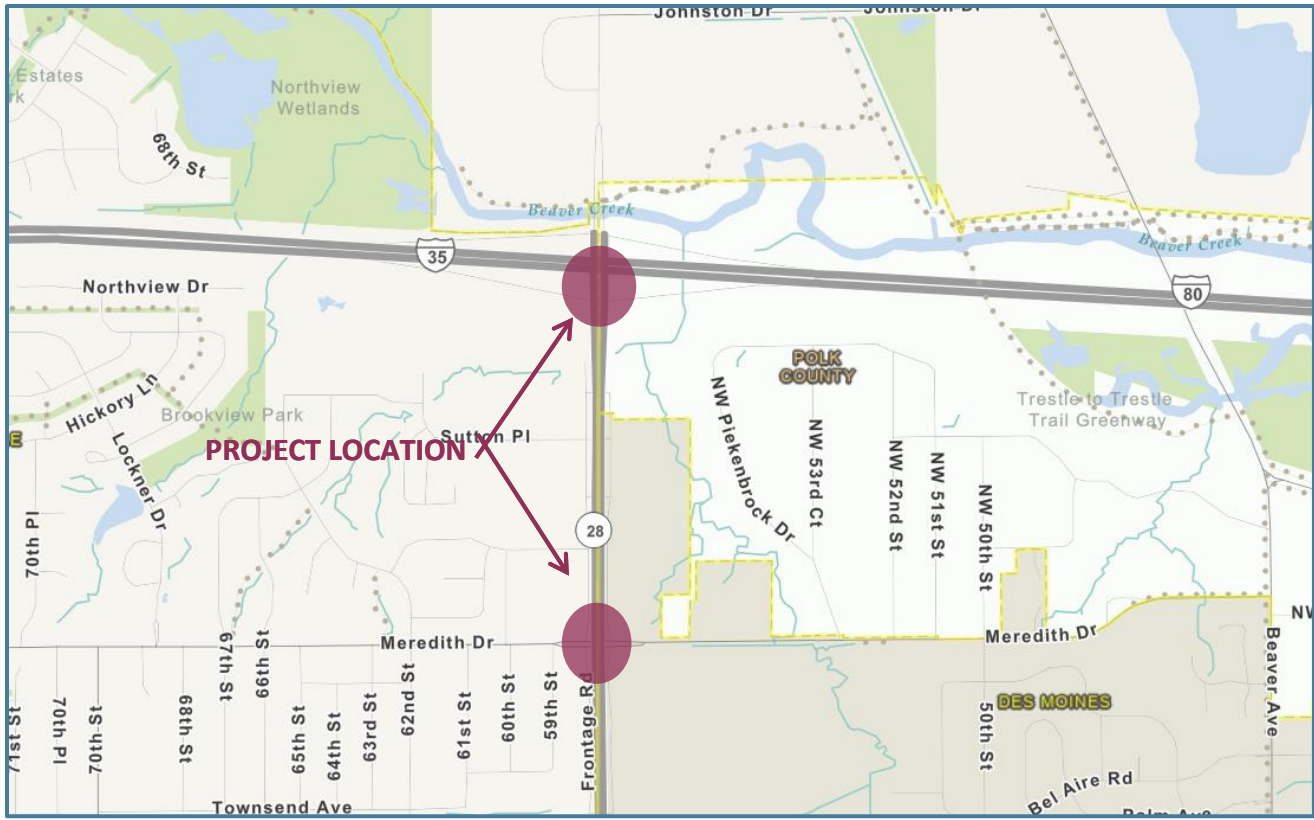
Funding Source: 2026-27 CIP, Page 169, Traffic Signal Replacement, TR091, Being: \$267,292.50 (\$350,000 Max) Per Iowa Department of Transportation Cooperative Agreement IMN-080-3(365)132-0E-77; \$182,990 in Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Urban State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP) Funds UST-028-2(053)--4A-77 (55% of eligible items with a max of \$200,000); \$73,358.75 from the City of Urbandale; and the remaining \$73,358.75 in G.O. Bonds

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On April 6, 2026, under Roll Call No. 26-0420, the City Council received and filed 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. 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 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.

- Sealed bids for said improvement were submitted by the following bidders:
  - Van Maanen Electric, Inc., Newton, IA - Low Bid
  - Iowa Signal, Inc., Grimes, IA
  - TK Concrete, Inc., Pella, 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 April 21, 2026.
- The City Engineer has determined that the lowest responsive, responsible bid for the construction of said improvement was submitted by Van Maanen Electric, Inc., 500 Iowa Speedway Drive, Newton, IA, 50208; Nathan Van Maanen, President, in the amount of \$597,000, and said bid should be accepted. The Finance Director has determined that funds are available for said improvement as stated above.
- 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 to their current condition. The mast arm pole failure on the northeast corner of Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive has required a temporary span wire to be installed to keep the signalized intersection in service until the signal can be replaced. A similar 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 be installed 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 IDOT U-STEP 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 of Des Moines 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 the design and construction 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: April 6, 2026

Roll Call Number: [26-0420](#)

Action: Ordering construction of the following:

- (A) Traffic Signal Replacement at Merle Hay Road and Meredith Drive and I-80/I-35: Receiving of bids, (4-21-26) and Setting date of hearing, (5-4-26), Engineer's estimate, \$600,000. ([Council Communication No. 26-131](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: February 23, 2026

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

Action: Approving and authorizing execution of the (IDOT Cooperative Agreement and 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:**

- 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).