

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-219	Meeting:	June 29, 2026
	Agenda Item:	13	Roll Call:	26-0724
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and adopting the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) Design Manual, 2026 Edition, SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2026 Edition, and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2026 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications and supplemental specifications for the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and adoption of the latest editions of the SUDAS Manuals, which are known as the SUDAS Design Manual, 2026 Edition, and SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2026 Edition and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2026 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications for construction of public improvements in the City and to be in effect beginning with all projects authorized by the City Council on June 29, 2026, which shall remain in effect until such time as they are further amended by this Council.

The SUDAS Design Manual and SUDAS Standard Specifications are statewide standards for design and construction of urban public improvements in Iowa, which are the product of a joint effort by many local jurisdictions, state agencies, design professionals and industry representatives to ensure that public improvements will function adequately, reduce maintenance problems, are durable, safe, and cost effective to the public within each jurisdiction using these design standards and standard specifications. City Supplemental Specifications supersede SUDAS Standard Specifications.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Reduced design and construction costs through uniformity, understanding, and acceptance by adopting updated Statewide Standards which includes reduction of contractor confusion and mistakes due to differing specifications and encouragement of more bidders.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The SUDAS Corporation has a comprehensive statewide Board of Directors and district committee structure including technical committees that are comprised of professional engineers and industry experts representing various Iowa stakeholders. Representatives from the City's Engineering and Public Works Departments participate in the various committees. These committees meet to review the statewide standards for design and construction of urban

public improvements and recommend changes that need to be made due to regulatory changes, changes of materials, improved construction techniques, and changing technology in the construction industry. After review and approval by the various committees and the SUDAS Board of Directors, the revisions are incorporated into the SUDAS Design Manual and SUDAS Standard Specifications annually.

- City staff further recommends approval and adoption of the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2026 Edition.
- By using standard designs and specifications, Iowa's cities have obtained the following benefits:
 - Uniformity of urban design and specifications across the state.
 - Uniform public improvements (e.g., similar sidewalk ramps) from city to city.
 - Reduction of contractor confusion and mistakes due to differing specifications; and encouragement of more bidders.
 - Mechanism to be proactive in research and studies for new and improved urban design and specifications.
 - Method for study and statewide implementation of latest techniques and material use.
 - Forum that allows state and local governments to collaborate with industry.
 - Reduced costs through uniformity, understanding, and acceptance.
- In-Trans (Iowa State University's Institute for Transportation) keeps the statewide SUDAS manuals up to date, relieving individual communities of that responsibility and expense while ensuring they are informed about new products and procedures.
- The 2026 Edition of the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications includes the following revisions:
 - Revised the procedural requirements for the submittal and opening of proposals/bids to coincide with the City's recent implementation of an electronic bidding service to receive and open bids for the construction of public improvement projects.
 - Added parameters to better define when unit prices may be adjusted as a result of an increase or decrease in the contract work.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 24, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0248](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and adopting the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) Design Manual, 2025 Edition; SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition; and the City of Des Moines General Supplemental Specifications to the SUDAS Standard Specifications, 2025 Edition, as the official design standards and standard specifications and supplemental specifications for the City of

Des Moines. ([Council Communication No. 25-079](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss.
Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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.