COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	Number:	**26-264**	Meeting:	**August 3, 2026**
	Agenda Item:	**9**	Roll Call:	**26-0874**
	Submitted by:	**Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer**		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Fiscal Year 2028 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) for the 31st Street and Cottage Grove Avenue mini-roundabout project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to the Iowa DOT for FY2028 TSIP funding for the 31st Street and Cottage Grove Avenue mini-roundabout project. The Iowa DOT has an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. The maximum request for funding per project is $500,000. The deadline for this year's application is August 15, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated Total Project Costs:

Construction Costs	$475,000
Engineering Design & Construction Administration	$90,000
Estimated Total Project Costs	$565,000

Funding Source:

- $475,000 – Traffic Safety Improvement Program Funding Request
- $90,000 (remaining amount pending TSIP funding awarded): 2026-2027 CIP, Page 159, Vision Zero Initiatives, ST326, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Iowa DOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for statewide traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem. Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in securing funding, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2026, for the next programming cycle.

- Funding requests may be up to $500,000 per project. Available funding for the Traffic Safety Improvement program varies by year. In FY2027 approximately $9.5 million was awarded. Historically, the State has received applications for more funding than is available.

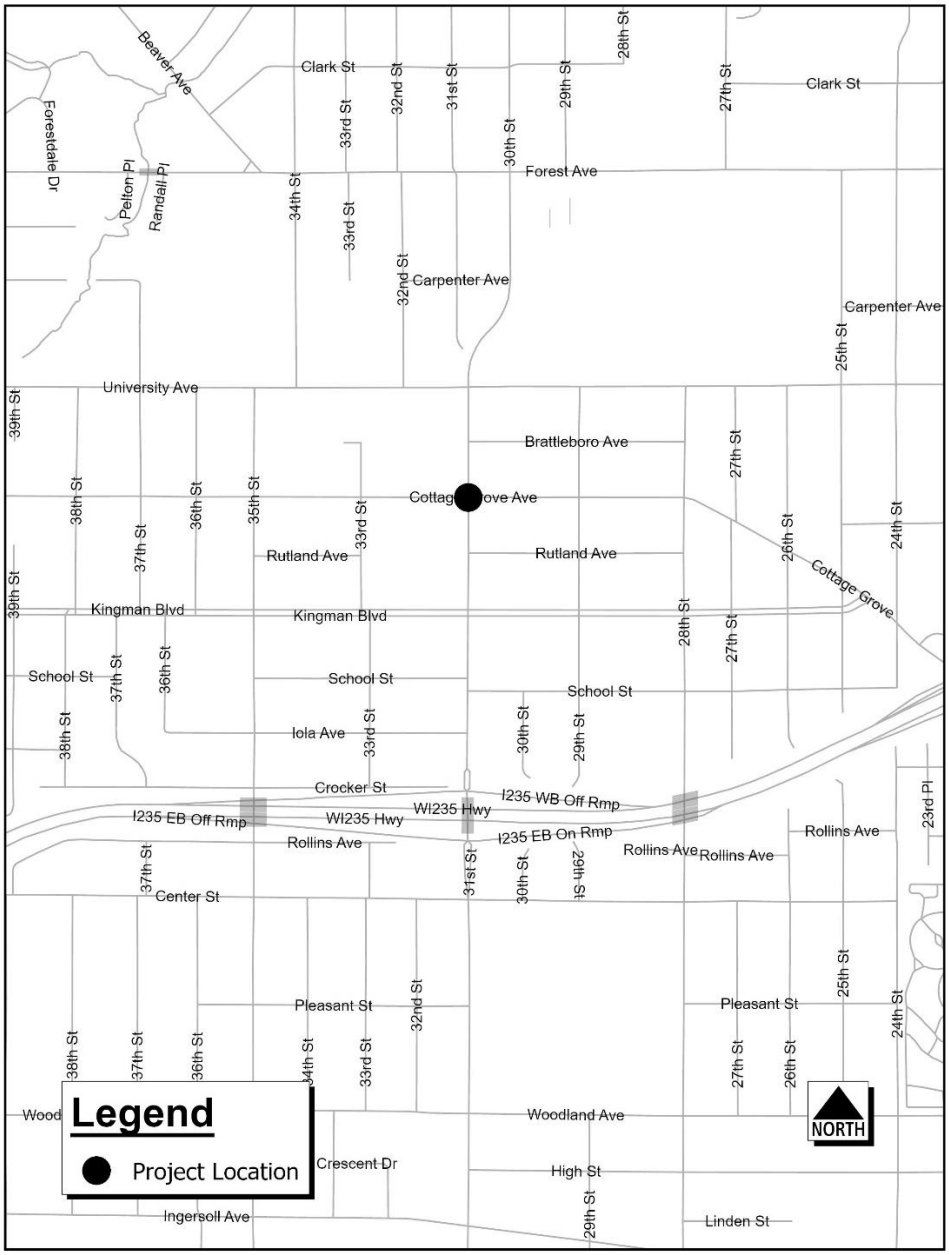
- Staff have reviewed potential projects and recommend the 31st Street and Cottage Grove Avenue mini-roundabout project be submitted for TSIP Funds. 31st Street is on the City's High Injury Network (HIN) as a street with the most significant crash risk for all modes of transportation. According to the Iowa DOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2018-2022, this intersection ranks fourth out of over 50,000 undivided, low speed, partial stop control intersections in the State of Iowa for potential crash reduction.

- The goal of this project is to construct a mini-roundabout at the intersection to replace the current two-way stop configuration. Mini-roundabouts are similar to modern roundabouts where entering traffic is yield-controlled and circulates counterclockwise around a center island. Mini-roundabouts have a smaller footprint (usually 45 to 90 feet in diameter) with a raised, traversable, center island and splitter islands. The traversable islands accommodate large vehicles by providing space for the vehicles' rear wheels to roll over the outer portion of the center island. Passenger vehicles and smaller trucks can navigate the intersection simply by circulating the center island. This design provides the safety and operational benefits of a roundabout while reducing the impacts to adjacent properties and the cost of right-of-way acquisition.

- Mini-roundabouts improve safety by reducing the angle and severity of crashes and slowing vehicle speeds, therefore reducing the kinetic energy of potential crashes all while maintaining traffic flow. In addition to the safety benefits for vehicles, this concept will also provide safer pedestrian crossings due to the presence of the splitter islands that will provide a refuge area in between the two (2) travel lanes. Pedestrians will only have to cross one (1) lane of traffic at a time instead of the entire street width.

- A public open house was held at Callanan Middle School on April 21, 2026. The meeting was attended by over 35 people and this project received overall positive support from the public.

- The total estimated project cost is $565,000 with TSIP Funds in the amount of $475,000 being requested. Receipt of TSIP Funding would provide for construction of the project to start in Fiscal Year 2028.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: July 14, 2026

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion was made by Brianne Sanchez to approve the project concept along 31st Street as presented; seconded by Juliann Van Liew. Motion passed 7:0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- If approved by the Iowa DOT for funding, project agreements would be presented to City Council for consideration.
- City staff anticipate actions related to construction, including ordering construction.

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