COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	Number:	**26-269**	Meeting:	**August 3, 2026**
	Agenda Item:	**7**	Roll Call:	**26-0872**
	Submitted by:	**Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer**		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing execution of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) agreement for the Forest Avenue Improvements from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the TSIP agreement 2027-TS-023 between the City of Des Moines and the IDOT for the Forest Avenue Improvements from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street project. This agreement will provide funding to reconfigure the lanes on Forest Avenue from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: $3,987,780 estimated cost

Funding Source:

- $500,000 – Traffic Safety Improvements Program (TSIP) funding
- $2,960,000 – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal funding
- $527,780 – 2026-2027 CIP, Page 127, Beaverdale to Downtown, ST278

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.

- Staff reviewed potential projects and recommended the Forest Avenue Improvement Project from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street be submitted for TSIP Funds. According to the Iowa DOT's Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR) for the timeframe of 2018-2022, the intersections of 30th Street, ML King Jr. Parkway, and 19th Street on Forest Avenue, rank in the top 100 of all intersections statewide for potential crash reduction. Several other intersections along this

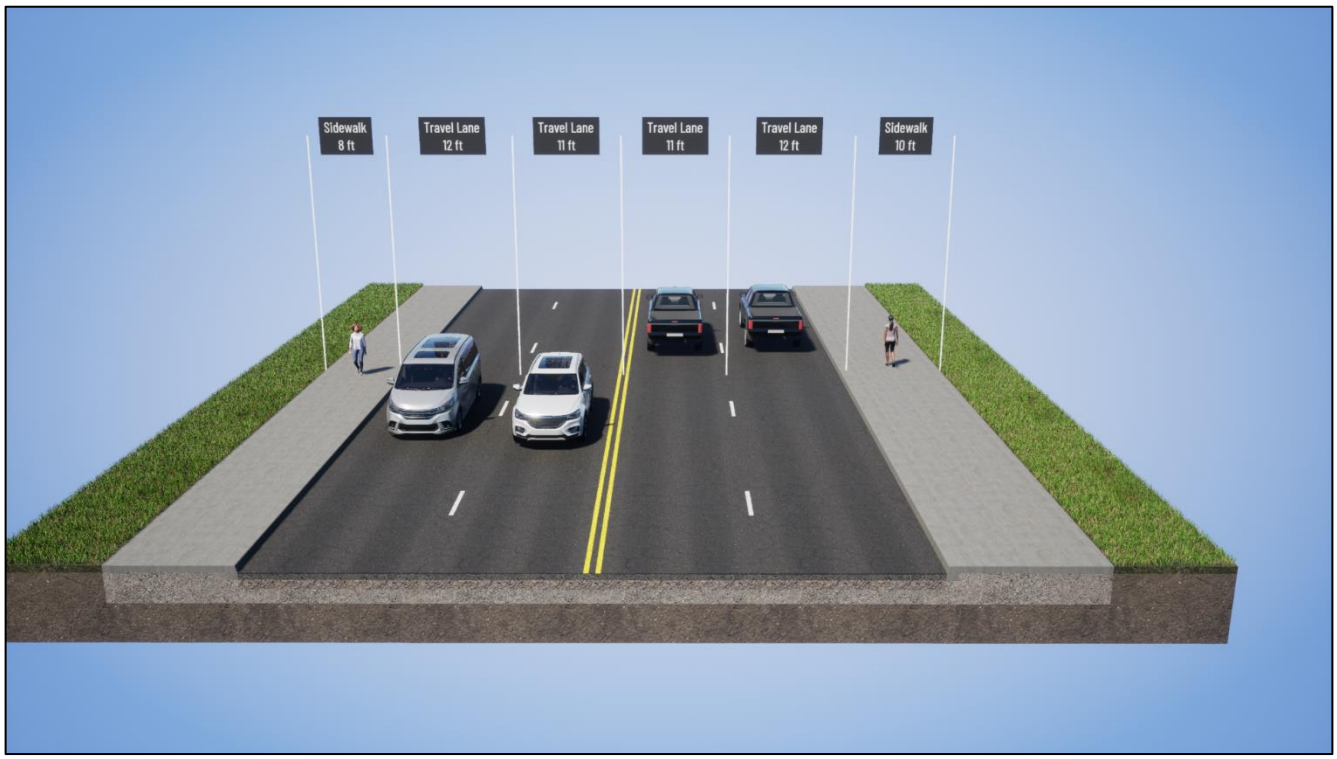
corridor have a high potential crash reduction according to the Iowa DOT. Forest Avenue is also on the City's High Injury Network (HIN) as one of the highest crash corridors in the City.

- The goal of this project is to improve the street cross-section for the traffic volume, slow vehicle speeds, improve pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and improve safety outcomes for all street users. To address safety along this corridor, several improvements are proposed. This project includes a hot-mix asphalt (HMA) mill & overlay and lane reconfiguration from Beaver Avenue to 19th Street. From Beaver Avenue to 23rd Street the street will be re-striped to provide three (3) lanes, with a travel lane in either direction, a center 2 (two)-way left-turn lane, and buffered bike lanes. In the section from 23rd Street to Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, the street will be reduced to two (2) lanes of traffic with buffered bike lanes and parking on the north side of the street. This project will also include a center median along the Drake University Campus to slow traffic and provide a median refuge island for pedestrian crossings. Curb extensions will be built to shadow the parking and reduce the street width from 23rd Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. This project will also include the replacement of the traffic signals at 25th Street and 27th Street.

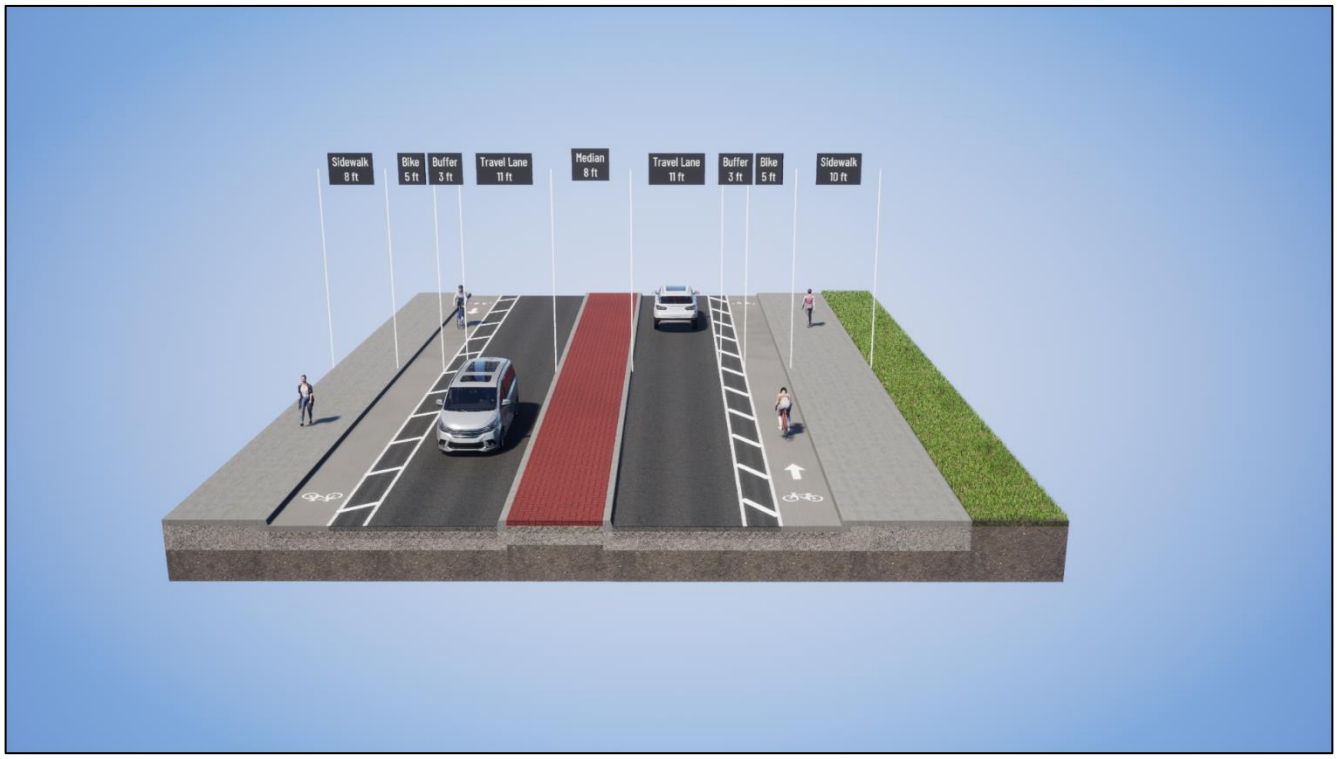
- Previously the City was notified it was being awarded a $13 million federal funding grant for the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) program. The final grant agreement is still in the review process of the USDOT. This funding grant had various citywide safety projects, including this project on Forest Avenue. This funding grant will cover 80 percent of the construction costs. The City is responsible for the remaining 20 percent.

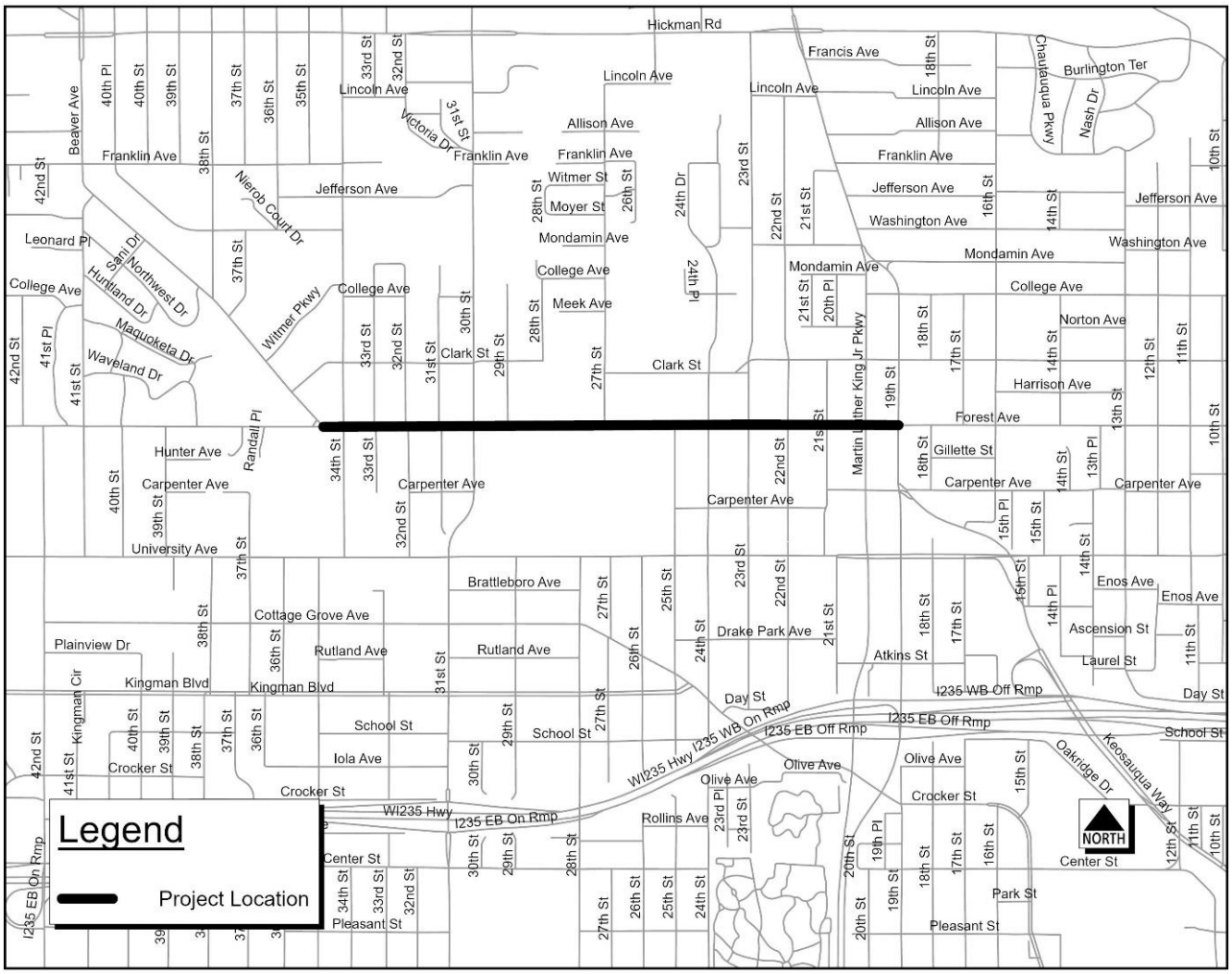
- The total estimated project cost is $3,987,780, with TSIP Funds in the amount of $500,000 awarded. The TSIP Funds would cover a portion of the construction costs and would offset a portion of the City's 20 percent match required as part of the SS4A funding grant. Construction of the project is expected to start in 2027.

EXISTING CROSS-SECTION



PROPOSED CROSS-SECTION





PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 20, 2025

Roll Call Number: 25-1382

Action: Approving United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant Agreement. (Council Communication No. 25-395) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Coleman. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 4, 2025

Roll Call Number: 25-1022

Action: Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Forest Avenue Improvement Project. (Council Communication No. 25-291) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: May 6, 2024

Roll Call Number: 24-0640

Action: Authorizing the application for a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant. (Council Communication No. 24-202) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Anticipated future actions related to this project include ordering construction, 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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