ITEM # 30
DATE: 09-11-07

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: UPDATE TO U.S. 69 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR GRAND AVENUE/13TH STREET INTERSECTION SIGNALIZATION

BACKGROUND:

On July 24, 2007, City Council directed staff to pursue "Alternative H" from the staff report regarding the U.S. 69 Intersection Improvements program. This direction was to not pursue any physical alterations to the intersection or changes to the signal phasing. City Council also directed staff to return to Council with a recommendation to amend the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to include a project for replacement of the existing traffic signal equipment.

After reviewing the current CIP page (attached), staff recommends that this traffic signal replacement project still be shown within the U.S. 69 Intersection Improvements program. The scaled back project shown on the proposed CIP page (attached) replaces the more extensive project that was originally shown for the 13th Street and Grand Avenue intersection for both 2008/09 and 2009/2010. With the new project shown in 2008/09, it will provide adequate time to generate engineering plans, have the project reviewed by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), and hold a bid letting.

As was mentioned during the July 24 City Council meeting, as part of this traffic signal replacement the City of Ames must meet IDOT clear-zone requirements of ten feet behind the curb. Easements for signal poles will need to be acquired for this purpose on two of the intersection corners.

There are several remaining items to be completed as part of the City's approved engineering services agreement with WHKS & Co. of Mason City. One item in particular is to finalize the engineering survey of the area to include all public and privately owned utilities. That surveying work originally extended 3-4 blocks in each direction from the intersection. Under the revised project, this survey work will now need to extend one block in each direction. This work is needed to move forward with developing the engineering plans for the traffic signal replacement.

Prior to the commencement of this survey work, staff will send out a notification letter to area residents to assuage any concerns they may have. This letter will explain the purpose of the additional survey work and outline the impacts associated with the proposed replacement of the traffic signal equipment.

By amending the CIP to include the replacement of the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of 13th Street and Grand Avenue, the City will enhance the reliability of

signal operations and benefit overall intersection efficiency. Funding for this $227,500 project is shown from the Road Use Tax fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Amend the US 69 Intersection Improvements CIP page to include the replacement of the traffic signal equipment at 13th Street and Grand Avenue under the 2008/2009 year of the U.S. 69 Intersection Improvements program.
2. Amend the CIP to shown the replacement of the traffic signal equipment under a different program.
3. Direct staff not to pursue any changes at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By updating the nearly 40-year old equipment at 13th Street and Grand Avenue, the City will increase the efficiency of traffic operations experienced at this intersection.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby amending the US 69 Intersection Improvements CIP page to include the replacement of the traffic signal equipment at 13th Street and Grand Avenue under the 2008/2009 year of the U.S. 69 Intersection Improvements program.

Current CIP

US69 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS **PROJECT STATUS:** Cost Change Delayed
Revenue Change

DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
Intersection improvement projects along US69 within and just outside the City limits will alleviate congestion and reduce accidents.

COMMENTS

2007/08	13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (planning) – Map 5, location L-9
2008/09	13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (land acquisition and engineering) – Map 5, location L-9
2009/10	13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (construction) – Map 5, location L-9
2010/11	20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (planning) – Map 5, location L-8;
2011/12	20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (land acquisition and engineering) – Map 5, location L-8

The Long Range Transportation Plan identifies future projects and serves as a guide to scheduling those projects.

Planning for the 13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements began in 2002/03. Due to a delay in the availability of Iowa Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) funding, these planning activities were suspended in recent years. Planning activities will conclude in 2007/08 with land acquisition occurring in 2008/09. This project may involve full acquisition of at least ten properties.

In 2010/11, planning for the 20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements will begin, with construction planned for 2012/13. (Power pole relocation costs for the 13th Street/Grand Avenue Intersection Improvements Project and the 20th Street/Grand Avenue Intersection Improvements Project are included in the Grand Avenue 13.8 kV Line Relocation Project shown on page 70.)

The 13th Street/Grand Avenue and the 20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvement project cost and schedule changes are the result of updates that coordinate with D.O.T. funding availability. An external source of revenue is from an Iowa D.O.T. (USTEP) Grant. Potential additional Iowa D.O.T. funding sources have been identified, and grant applications will be submitted.

FISCAL YEAR PRIORITY		7	1	1	2	1
	TOTAL	**2007/08**	**2008/09**	**2009/10**	**2010/11**	**2011/12**
COST:						
Planning	80,000	30,000			50,000	
Land Acquisition	1,500,000		1,400,000			100,000
Engineering	305,000		135,000	35,000		135,000
Construction	1,300,000			1,300,000		
TOTAL	**3,185,000**	30,000	**1,535,000**	**1,335,000**	**50,000**	**235,000**
FINANCING:						
G. O. Bonds	2,605,000		1,535,000	835,000		235,000
Road Use Tax	80,000	30,000			50,000	
Iowa D.O.T. (USTEP) Grant	400,000			400,000		
Iowa D.O.T. Grant	100,000			100,000		
TOTAL	**3,185,000**	30,000	**1,535,000**	**1,335,000**	**50,000**	**235,000**

PROGRAM – ACTIVITY: Public Safety – Traffic
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
ACCOUNT NO. 060-7513-429

Proposed Revision To CIP

US69 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS **PROJECT STATUS:** Cost Change Delayed
Revenue Change

DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
Intersection improvement projects along US69 within and just outside the City limits will alleviate congestion and reduce accidents.

COMMENTS
Proposed schedule:

2007/08	13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (planning) – Map 5, location L-9
2008/09	13th Street/Grand Avenue signal replacement (engineering) – Map 5, location L-9
2009/10	
2010/11	20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (planning) – Map 5, location L-8;
2011/12	20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements (land acquisition and engineering) – Map 5, location L-8

The Long Range Transportation Plan identifies future projects and serves as a guide to scheduling those projects.

Planning for the 13th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements began in 2002/03. Due to a delay in the availability of Iowa Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) funding, these planning activities were suspended in recent years. Planning activities will conclude in 2007/08 with engineering for the traffic signal replacement occurring in 2008/09. This project may include costs for easements on the corner properties of 13th Street and Grand Avenue.

In 2010/11, planning for the 20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvements will begin, with construction planned for 2012/13. (Power pole relocation costs for the 13th Street/Grand Avenue Intersection Improvements Project and the 20th Street/Grand Avenue Intersection Improvements Project are included in the Grand Avenue 13.8 kV Line Relocation Project shown on page 70.)

The 13th Street/Grand Avenue and the 20th Street/Grand Avenue intersection improvement project cost and schedule changes are the result of updates that coordinate with D.O.T. funding availability. An external source of revenue is from an Iowa D.O.T. (USTEP) Grant. Potential additional Iowa D.O.T. funding sources have been identified, and grant applications will be submitted.

FISCAL YEAR PRIORITY		7	1	1	2	1
	TOTAL	**2007/08**	**2008/09**	**2009/10**	**2010/11**	**2011/12**
COST:						
Planning	80,000	30,000			50,000	
Land Acquisition & Easements	102,500		2,500			100,000
Engineering	155,000		20,000			135,000
Construction	175,000		175,000			
TOTAL	**512,500**	**30,000**	**197,500**		**50,000**	**235,000**
FINANCING:						
G. O. Bonds	235,000					235,000
Road Use Tax	277,500	30,000	197,500		50,000	
TOTAL	**512,500**	**30,000**	**197,500**	**0**	**50,000**	**235,000**

PROGRAM – ACTIVITY: Public Safety – Traffic
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
ACCOUNT NO. 030-7513-429