

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: 2011/12 DOWNTOWN STREET PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS
(DOUGLAS AVENUE – MAIN STREET TO 7TH STREET)**

BACKGROUND:

The annual Downtown Street Pavement Improvements program is for rehabilitation/reconstruction of streets within the downtown area. The 2011/12 program location is Douglas Avenue (Main Street to 7th Street). The project includes removal and replacement of the existing pavement, storm and sanitary sewer improvements, new water main from Main Street to 7th Street, new angled parking at the City of Ames Library (which increases the capacity from 8 spaces to 13 and includes two dedicated handicap parking stalls), a ribbon of colored sidewalk concrete to match the previously constructed areas of downtown, and street lighting. The project includes bulb-out areas and colored concrete at the intersections from Main Street to 6th Street to provide a similar design to the other sections of downtown.

City staff held public meetings, which included area businesses, the Main Street Cultural District (MSCD), the library staff and design team for the library expansion, and residents to discuss construction. The project has been staged to maintain access to all businesses during construction and is scheduled to complete the 500 block of Douglas Avenue during fall 2012, which is ahead of the projected library expansion project, as requested by the Ames Public Library. The 400 block is to be constructed after the Octagon Arts Festival this fall, but completed prior to the July 4th parade in 2013. Staff has also worked closely with the MSCD to coordinate project scheduling with the many events that occur in the area during the construction season.

The costs associated with this project are estimated to include:

Engineering and Construction Administration (estimated)	\$ 170,000
Construction (estimated)	<u>\$1,262,349</u>
Total Base Costs	\$1,432,349

The project funding is summarized below:

11/12 General Obligation Bonds	\$ 750,000
2009 General Obligation Bonds (unobligated)	\$ 240,000
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 258,000
Water Fund	\$ 110,200
Electric (Street Lighting)	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Total Funding	\$1,433,200

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the 2011/12 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements (Douglas Avenue from Main Street to 7th Street) by establishing August 22, 2012, as the date of letting and August 28, 2012, as the date for report of bids.
2. Direct staff to revise the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving plans and specifications and setting the letting date, it will be possible to move forward with the reconstruction of Douglas Avenue during the 2012/13 construction seasons ahead of the library expansion project. Delay of approval could delay the reconstruction by at least one year and could impact the library expansion project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the 2011/12 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements (Douglas Avenue from Main Street to 7th Street) by establishing August 22, 2012, as the date of letting and August 28, 2012, as the date for report of bids.