

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**     **IOWA CLEAN AIR ATTAINMENT PROGRAM (ICAAP)**  
                  **GRANT APPLICATION FOR MORTENSEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

**BACKGROUND:**

This project, as shown in the 2013/14 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Mortensen Road Improvements, includes the widening of Mortensen Road between South Dakota Avenue and Dotson Drive into a three-lane roadway section. This widening project is also included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. This section of roadway has experienced more consistent traffic congestion due to on-street Cy-Ride stops in the area. Congestion will continue to worsen as Dotson Drive is eventually extended northward to Lincoln Way. A development agreement for South Fork subdivision specifies that the Dotson Drive extension will be completed by the Ames Community School District within two years after the South Fork section of Dotson is constructed.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) administers grants through the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) program that provides \$4 million annually to fund projects with the highest potential for reducing transportation-related congestion and air pollution. The application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> for the next application cycle. There is a minimum requirement of 20% in local matching funds, which for this project would be approximately \$60,000, leaving \$300,000 to be requested from the Iowa DOT.

There are other requirements for this grant. First, an official certification from the governing body (in this case the City Council) is needed to commit the necessary local matching funding for project implementation and, upon project completion, to assume responsibility for adequately maintaining the project for public use during the project's useful life. Secondly, an end-of-project report on emissions benefits will also be required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize the ICAAP application for the Mortensen Road Improvements project up to the maximum amount equaling 80% of the total estimated eligible project costs, and provide official certification in the form of a resolution to commit the necessary local matching funds for the project and to assume responsibility to maintain the facility for public use during the project's useful life.
2. Do not authorize this grant application.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

ICAAP grant funding is available to help fund this project, which will help relieve traffic congestion between South Dakota Avenue and the Ames Middle School.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, thereby authorizing the ICAAP application for the Mortensen Road Improvements up to the maximum amount equaling 80% of the total estimated eligible project costs, and providing official certification in the form of a resolution to commit the necessary local matching funds for the project and to assume responsibility to maintain the facility for public use during the project's useful life.