

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2014/15 MORTENSEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (SOUTH DAKOTA AVENUE TO DOTSON DRIVE)

BACKGROUND:

This project involves the widening of Mortensen Road from South Dakota Avenue to Dotson Drive to accommodate turn lanes, a bus acceleration lane, and consolidation of redundant bus stop locations. This section of roadway has experienced increasing traffic congestion due to on-street Cy-Ride stops in the area, commuter traffic from Iowa State University employees and students, ingress/egress traffic to the Ames Middle School, and increased traffic due to additional housing being constructed in the area. This widening project is shown in the 2014/15 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

A development agreement for the Middle School 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 Drive is constructed. This improvement is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2015 calendar year. **Without these improvements, congestion in this area will continue to increase when Dotson Drive is extended northward.**

The City submitted a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant application in 2013 to help cover the cost of materials for this project, which equates to \$391,334. After reviewing the grant application, Iowa Department of Transportation officials approved the request and submitted the funding agreement. The TSIP grant requires a local match of 20 percent, which is shown in the 2014/15 CIP with \$110,000 in Road Use Tax funding. Additional funding in the amount of \$10,553 from the 2014/15 Sidewalk Safety Program will be utilized for this project, bringing **total available funding for this project to \$511,887.**

Staff has completed plans and specifications for this contract with a total estimated construction cost of \$445,119. Engineering and construction administration costs are estimated at \$65,000, bring **total estimated costs to \$510,119.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the 2014/15 Mortensen Road Widening (South Dakota Avenue to Dotson Drive) by establishing December 3, 2014, as the date of letting and December 9, 2014, as the date for report of bids.
2. Do not approve this project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving these plans and specifications, traffic congestion will be decreased while safety will be increased for our citizens in this corridor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.