ITEM # 14
DATE 11-10-14

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2014/15 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROGRAM (UNION DR. & LINCOLN WAY)

BACKGROUND:

The Traffic Signal Program provides for replacing older traffic signals by constructing new traffic signals in the City. This program results in improved visibility, reliability, and signal aesthetics.

Although recent advances in technology have extended the normal, useful life for traffic signal installations well past the previously expected 25 years, some of the older generation traffic signals still in use exceed their functional age. Components at those installations (including conduits, wiring, signal heads, and poles) need to be completely replaced. In addition, this program provides for necessary upgrades to the traffic signal system as technology evolves. In recent years, the traffic signal replacements have included radar detection systems instead of the typical in-pavement loop detection system that frequently was the point of vehicle detection failure. Another advantage of the radar detection system is that it also detects bicycles.

Staff has completed plans and specifications with estimated construction costs of $181,250 for the replacement of the traffic signal at Union Drive and Lincoln Way. Engineering and construction administration are estimated in the amount of $14,500, which brings the total estimated project cost to $195,750. The Capital Improvements Plan includes Road Use Tax Fund funding of $200,000 for this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the 2014/15 Traffic Signal Program (Union Dr. & Lincoln Way) by establishing December 3, 2014, as the date of letting and December 9, 2014, as the date for report of bids.

2. Reject the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of the plans and specifications will initiate the letting process and should allow for the project to be completed by August 3, 2015, prior to the start of Iowa State University's fall semester.

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