

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: 161KV ELECTRIC LINE RELOCATION PROJECT FOR
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) is preparing to widen Interstate 35 (I-35) in the vicinity of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, continuing north of the Skunk River. Their project will ultimately impact several kinds of city infrastructure which is located in that general area. Of concern here is the necessary relocation of approximately one mile of Ames' 161kV electric transmission line which is located along the east side of I-35 adjacent to the project area. This item includes the following two requests for approval.

1) Contract With IDOT For Reimbursement

The attached agreement addresses easements to be provided by IDOT to the City and the obligation to reimburse the City for the engineering costs associated with the line relocation. A separate reimbursement agreement with IDOT will be created once an engineering estimate for the construction costs has been developed and before any additional expenditures are made by the City. The reimbursement agreement is for a total estimated cost of \$82,000, which is the proposed cost from the recommended engineering firm, Dewild Grant Reckert (DGR), Rock Rapids, Iowa.

2) Professional Services Agreement With DGR

IDOT would like the Ames electric transmission line to be completely relocated before the end of 2016. To meet this deadline, right-of-way purchases and engineering activities need to begin immediately. **In order to meet this ambitious deadline, staff is requesting that the City Council waive the City's purchasing policy for competitive proposals and approve the selection of DGR as the project engineer for this relocation work.** DGR is familiar with the design and right-of-way needs for this line because they performed the original design, conducted the permitting of the line, and assisted with the original right-of-way acquisition.

Funding for the engineering and relocation work will be charged to the FY 15/16 Capital Improvement Project established for this project, which has a current balance of \$800,000. These expenditures will be reimbursed by IDOT under the reimbursement agreements.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Approve the reimbursement agreement from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the engineering cost associated with the relocation of the electric transmission line

- 1b. Waive the City's purchasing policy requirement for competitive proposals and award a contract to Dewild Grant Reckert & Associates Company, Rock Rapids, Iowa, on a time and material (T & M) basis for an estimated total cost of \$82,000 for the professional services for 161kV relocation for IDOT.
2. Approve the Reimbursement Agreement with IDOT, but reject the purchasing policy waiver request and direct staff to issue a Request For Proposal from other firms.
3. Do not approve the Reimbursement Agreement with IDOT nor the engineering agreement with DGR.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The relocation of this transmission line is necessary to allow the IDOT to make necessary improvements to Interstate 35 near the Skunk River. All City costs will be reimbursed by the IDOT. Approval of the recommended action will allow the City to move forward with the engineering and easement procurement. Delaying this relocation project would also delay IDOT's highway improvement project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternatives No. 1a. and 1b. as stated above.

Council should be aware that other departments will bring forth other items related to the I-35 widening in the future. Public Works is currently working on design for the relocation of the City's sanitary trunk sewer that will likely require the acquisition of additional easements. The Water and Pollution Control Department has been contacted by the IDOT to purchase land and/or easements at the Water Pollution Control Plant and I-35 well field location. These will require reimbursement for the actual land and the impacts related to the project. **These additional items will be brought forward to Council at a later date when agreements with the IDOT have been finalized and are ready for approval.**