

Staff Report

**Iowa State University Research Park – Phase III
Winter Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations**

December 22, 2015

BACKGROUND:

On December 5, 2015, Trevin Ward of the Ames Bicycle Coalition sent an email to the Mayor and City Council with concerns regarding pedestrian and bicycle access through the project site over the winter of 2015/2016. This report is in response to not being able to install all of the sidewalks and shared use paths during the 2015 construction season.

The project plan calls for shared use paths to be installed throughout the roundabout at the intersection of University Boulevard and Airport Road. **Unfortunately, with wet weather this fall and the additional wet early winter and inconsistent temperatures, the ability to install the shared use paths while staying within the specification limits has been hampered.**

Staff met with the project team, including the contractors, to determine the best solution to get the project into an operable state for winter. The contractor stated that they would install the shared use paths, but would not be able to meet the specification limits since the sub-grade is too soft in the winter to meet the proper compaction standards. This option would only be offered under the condition that the City waive the contract warranty requirements for the work. Staff did not move forward with this offer, not wanting to jeopardize the warranty terms and potentially force the City to bear the costs to repair deficient work. **The project team discussed installing a temporary rock path, but thought it best to maintain the pedestrian/bicycle detour over the winter months, as noted below.**

The remaining items regarding this project will be completed in the spring when weather permits. Items of work to be completed in the spring include: the construction of the shared use paths; removal of the temporary pavement in the north roundabout; installation of the truck apron; finalization of the north bound connection on the southeast corner of the University and Airport roundabout; installation of the shared use path/sidewalk connections at the southern two roundabouts; construction of the parking areas around the HUB building; and, completion of the final grading and restoration.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The Public Works Operations Division Manager and the City Risk Manager were consulted regarding the installation and maintenance of a temporary gravel or rock

surface. This approach raised serious concerns regarding the ability of the City to perform adequate winter maintenance and to continually provide an ADA compliant, all-weather route. The ability to remove snow and ice becomes an ongoing challenge because each time a broom or blade removes snow it will also remove rock. This option will require additional surfacing to be placed after each event. Additionally, ice control cannot be adequately maintained on a gravel or rock surface.

Staff believes that the best option would be to maintain the signed, official detour over the winter and to add additional signage and fencing round the project area to help ensure that bikes and pedestrians don't access the area. The staff understands that people, as they often do, enter closed work areas, but if all signs and fences are maintained properly, they would be entering at their own risk and, thus, reducing or eliminating the liability to the City.

The contractor has installed additional safety fence and sidewalk closed signs, at additional project cost, on the NW, SW, and SE legs of the roundabout, as well as on the north side of Airport Road east of University Boulevard. Therefore, the existing pedestrian detour begins at Green Hills Drive, to Christofferson Park, through the Wessex path to the current CyRide stop and crossing to Workiva. **It is staff's recommendation that this route be maintained over the winter. Bicycles may also utilize this route if they choose. In addition, depending on the comfort level of riding in traffic, bicycles can also utilize University Boulevard for access, but will be required to function as a vehicle through the area, just as any other street.**



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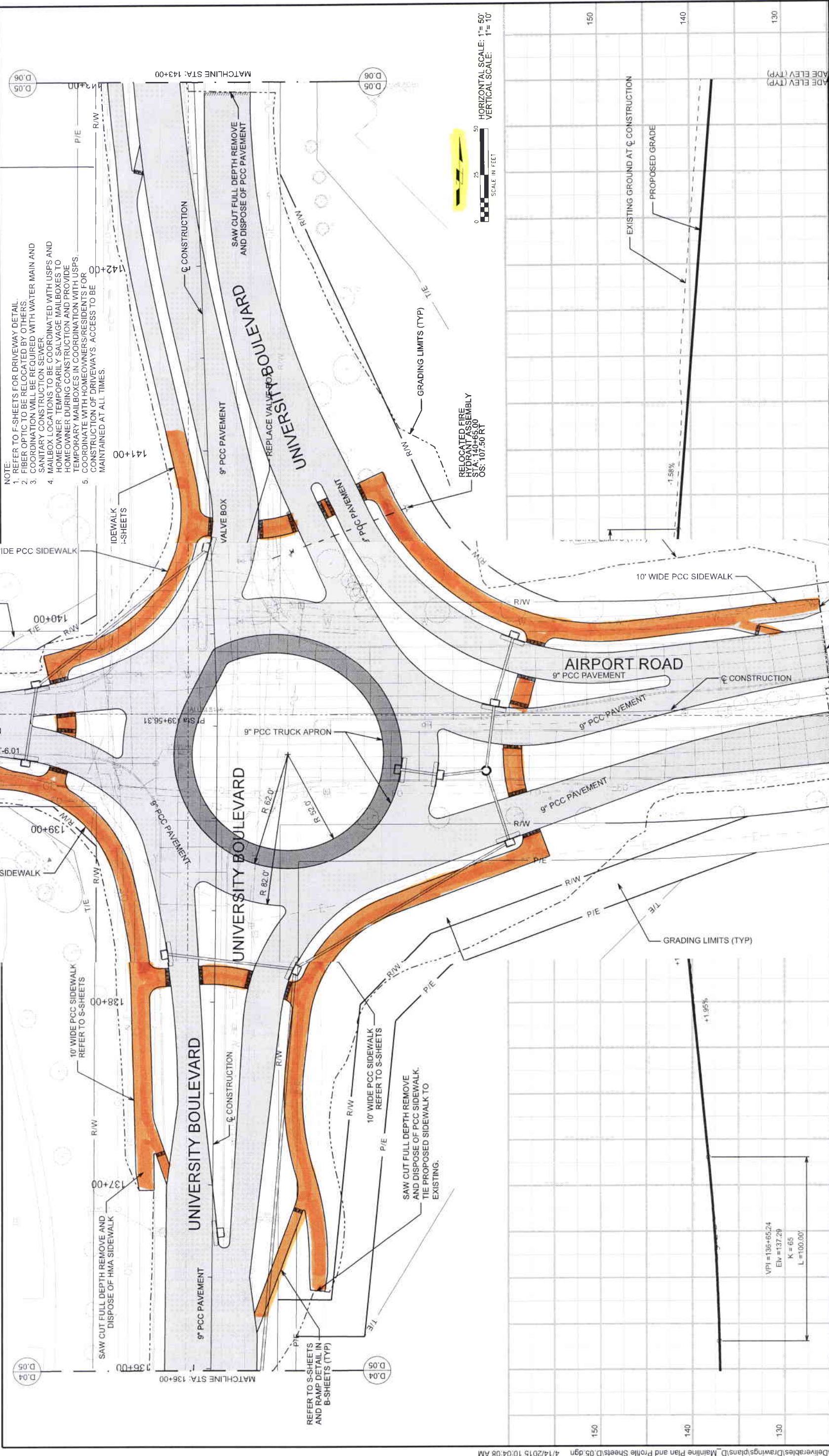


University Avenue & Airport Road
Shared Use Path Detour



Scale: 1 in = 350 ft
Date: 9/24/2015

Sidewalk Install 2016



- NOTE:
1. REFER TO F-SHEETS FOR DRIVEWAY DETAIL.
 2. FIBER OPTIC TO BE RELOCATED BY OTHERS.
 3. COORDINATION WILL BE REQUIRED WITH WATER MAIN AND SANITARY CONSTRUCTION SEWER.
 4. MAILBOX LOCATIONS TO BE COORDINATED WITH USPS AND HOMEOWNER. TEMPORARILY SALVAGE MAILBOXES TO HOMEOWNER DURING CONSTRUCTION AND PROVIDE TEMPORARY MAILBOXES IN COORDINATION WITH USPS.
 5. COORDINATE WITH HOMEOWNERS/RESIDENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAYS. ACCESS TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'
VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 10'

VIPI=136+65.24
EIV=137.29
K=65
L=100.00'