

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2015/16 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROGRAM (UNIVERSITY BLVD. & HWY 30 WESTBOUND OFF-RAMP)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Traffic Signal Program of the Capital Improvement Plan provides for replacing older traffic signals and constructing new traffic signals in the City. Program goals include improved traffic flow and safety, as well as improved visibility, reliability, and signal aesthetics. **This project is for the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of University Boulevard and Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp** as identified in the traffic impact study for the ISU Research Park Phase III expansion. The cost of the signal is to be split 50/50 between ISU and the City.

Staff has completed plans and specifications for this contract with a base bid estimated construction cost of \$176,700. One add alternate bid is included to potentially purchase backup replacement equipment for the pedestrian push buttons and vehicle radar detection systems at an estimated cost of \$19,500. Engineering and construction administration are estimated in the amount of \$21,200, bringing the total estimated project cost to \$217,400.

The 2015/16 Capital Improvements Plan includes Road Use Tax funding of \$125,000 and ISU funding of \$125,000 for this project, bringing total project funding to \$250,000.

While it does not impact the timing of this project, City staff has received word that the Iowa DOT desires to provide U-STEP funding for the City portion of this project, with the intent that the City's \$125,000 share of Road Use Tax funding on this project be used instead to facilitate a high priority IDOT project for the northbound I-35 off-ramp at East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The IDOT proposal would pay for 50% of the University Blvd./Highway 30 signal costs, including design, construction and inspection. ISU would continue to have a 50% share of project costs as originally planned. At the same time, the City's \$125,000 share from this project would be applied to the East 13<sup>th</sup> Street signal. If this proposal moves forward, the East 13<sup>th</sup> Street/I-35 Signal project would be included in the draft 2017/18 CIP. ISU is aware that this change may be made.

Staff is endeavoring to work with IDOT to develop agreements for both signal installations with a goal of presenting those agreements for Council approval at the same time as bid letting for this project on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In the event that those agreements cannot be worked out, the funding will revert back to the original 50:50 split between ISU and the City.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the preliminary plans and specifications for the 2015/16 Traffic Signal Program (University Boulevard & Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp) by establishing May 4, 2016, as the date of letting and May 10, 2016, as the date for report of bids.

2. Do not approve this project.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approval of these plans and specifications will initiate the letting process with the goal of having the signal installed and operational prior to this autumn's first ISU home football game.

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