

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: FY 2015/16 DOWNTOWN STREET PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS
 (CLARK AVENUE)**

BACKGROUND:

The annual Downtown Street Pavement Improvements program rehabilitates or reconstructs streets within the downtown area. **The FY 2015/16 program location is Clark Avenue from Main Street to Lincoln Way.** This project includes removal and replacement of the existing pavement, installing storm and sanitary sewer improvements, constructing sidewalk improvements, and designating on-street bicycle facilities. The project also includes a ribbon of colored sidewalk concrete to match the previously reconstructed areas of downtown.

Staff has completed plans and specifications for this contract with total estimated construction cost of \$591,000. Engineering and construction administration costs are estimated at \$89,000, **bringing total estimated costs for this project to \$680,000.**

The below table summarizes the FY 2015/16 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements program funding sources, funding distribution and expense breakdown for this project.

<i>Program Funding Summary</i>		Clark Ave
2015/16 Downtown Street Pavement Improvement Program		
G.O. Bonds	\$	800,000
Electric Utility Fund	\$	50,000
Total Funding		\$ 850,000

<i>Program Expense Summary</i>	
Engineering & Contract Administration (estimated)	\$ 89,000
Construction Costs (estimated)	\$ 591,000
Total Expenses	
	\$ 680,000

City staff held a project informational meeting with area property owners, business owners and interested persons to receive input on the project timing, staging and design. Based on comments received from interested persons, the project has been designed so that the new street maintains one travel lane for northbound traffic and one for southbound traffic, with a center turn lane as needed. This configuration is often referred to as a “road diet”. Additionally, existing truck loading zones are maintained in the design to accommodate commercial delivery needs and schedules. The road diet also adds bike lanes to the project design, providing on-street bicycle facilities.

This project was originally planned to involve pavement reconstruction only, with no modifications to the multi-modal infrastructure. However, within the 2016-21 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), a project is identified in the Multi-Modal Roadway Improvements Program to implement a road diet on Clark Avenue in fiscal year 2018/19. The Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC) provided feedback and requested that bike lanes be included with reconstruction of this portion of Clark Avenue, versus waiting to implement the road diet in FY 2018/19. The remainder of the Multi-Modal Roadway Improvements Program project for Clark Avenue will be completed as planned in FY 2018/19.

Public Works staff reviewed the proposed design and budget and held follow-up conversations with the ABC and area businesses. The desired goal was to identify a design that accommodates all modes of travel, current and future users of the corridor, commercial loading zone needs, and train crossing queuing capacity. Ultimately it was determined it is feasible to incorporate the road diet within this project. The FY 2018/19 CIP project description and budget will be updated to reflect the improvements being accomplished now with this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve plans and specifications for the FY 2015/16 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements (Clark Avenue) and establish 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:

This project represents City Council's continuing commitment to reinvest in downtown infrastructure. Staff worked extensively with ABC and area businesses to develop a design that includes on-street bicycle facilities while balancing the many other varied roadway needs along this street.

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