

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

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

**BACKGROUND:**

The Capital Improvement Plan’s Traffic Signal Program provides for replacing older traffic signals and for 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 specific project is for installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of University Boulevard and the Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp.** The need for this project was identified in a 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 (all work except purchasing backup equipment) plus one add alternate bid. The alternate bid is included to potentially purchase backup replacement equipment for the pedestrian push buttons and the vehicle radar detection systems.

On May 4, 2016, bids for the project were received as follows:

<i>Bidder</i>	<i>Base Bid</i>	<i>Bid Alternate</i>	<i>Total Bid (Base + Alternate)</i>
<b>Engineer's Estimate</b>	<b>\$176,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 196,200.00</b>
Iowa Signal Inc.	\$165,150.66	\$ 18,920.00	\$ 184,070.66
Baker Electric	\$164,989.40	\$ 19,658.00	\$ 184,647.40
K&W Electric	\$167,968.28	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 186,968.28
Voltmer Inc.	\$174,071.13	\$ 18,865.00	\$ 192,936.13

Currently, 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.

**The City staff has received word that the Iowa DOT desires to provide U-STEP funding to replace the City’s portion of this project. In turn, DOT would like those same Road Use Tax dollars to instead be used as matching funds for a signal project the Iowa DOT has identified as high-priority at the Northbound I-35 off-ramp at East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The Iowa DOT determined that the off-ramp was in need of signalization after conducting their annual count program for calendar year 2015.**

Under their proposal, the Iowa DOT would use U-STEP funding to pay for 50% of the University Blvd./Highway 30 signal, as well as 50% of the Northbound I-35 off-ramp/East 13<sup>th</sup> Street signal, including design, construction and inspection. ISU would continue to have a 50% share of project costs for the signal at University Boulevard as originally planned. ISU staff is aware of this proposal and have agreed that the

alternative funding arrangement with the Iowa DOT will not change ISU's contribution to the signal at University Boulevard/Highway 30.

Staff is working with Iowa DOT to develop agreements for both signal installations so that both agreements can be presented for Council approval at the same time as bid letting for this project. Staff is hopeful it can come back to City Council with these two agreements and with a recommendation for funding and award of the project at the May 24, 2016 Council meeting.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Accept the report of bids for the 2015/16 Traffic Signal Program (University Boulevard & Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp).  
  
b. Approve the final plans and specifications for this project.  
  
c. Delay award of this project until a future date when the source of funding is confirmed.
2. Do not proceed with the project at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Delaying the award of this project will provide the time necessary for staff to finalize discussions with the Iowa DOT and to prepare funding agreements for funding of the project at University and Highway 30, as well as for the future project at E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and I-35.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above and thereby accept the report of bids and delay award of bid until a future date.