

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SOUTH GRAND AVENUE AND SOUTH 16TH STREET

BACKGROUND:

This project is for safety improvements at the intersection of South Grand Avenue and South 16th Street. The improvements are expected to enhance the safety of the intersection with the increased traffic in the area from recent development and the anticipated increase once the South Grand Avenue extension opens.

There has been a recent increase in crashes that are raising a safety concern at the intersection that may be amplified once the South Grand Avenue extension is complete. The increase in crashes has occurred since the recent development of the adjacent apartment complexes. With the anticipated increase in traffic due to the connection of South Grand Avenue, crashes are anticipated to grow. To help mitigate safety concerns at this location, it is proposed that a traffic signal be installed as part of the Grand Avenue Extension project.

In order to coordinate this signal installation with the rest of the Grand Avenue Extension project, a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant application is being submitted now to help cover the cost of materials for components of the traffic signal installation, which is estimated at \$210,000. As part of the grant application, Iowa Department of Transportation officials request a resolution supporting submission of the grant application and assurance that any funded improvements will be adequately maintained.

The Grand Avenue Extension continues to be included in the Capital Improvements Plan with funding identified since 2013/14 and continuing through 2018/19. Funding shown in the CIP for 2017/18 and 2018/19 includes \$7,700,000 in G.O. Bonds, \$4,300,000 in MPO/STP Funds, and \$3,450,000 in Federal/State Grant Funds. In general, construction is anticipated to commence in 2018 with hopeful completion in 2020.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can indicate its support for submission of the TSIP grant application with assurance that any funded improvements will be adequately maintained.
2. The City Council can direct staff to pursue alternative funding sources for this signal.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopting a resolution showing support for the TSIP grant application is one step in the continuing process of accomplishing the Grand Avenue Extension project.

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