

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2019/20 ARTERIAL STREET PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS (13TH STREET FROM WILSON AVENUE TO DUFF AVENUE)

BACKGROUND:

This annual program utilizes current repair and reconstruction techniques to improve arterial streets with asphalt or concrete. These pavement improvements are needed to restore structural integrity, serviceability, and rideability. Targeted streets are reaching a point of accelerated deterioration. By improving these streets prior to excessive problems, the service life will be extended. **The location for this project is 13th Street from Wilson Avenue to Duff Avenue.**

This project was originally programmed to consider on-street bike facilities. **Following the guidance in the Complete Streets Plan (CSP), vehicle volumes and speeds make on-street bike facilities incompatible with this section of 13th Street. In these types of settings, the CSP recommends that alternative parallel routes should be utilized.** 16th Street from Northwestern Avenue to Meadowlane Avenue has been identified in the Longe Range Transportation Plan, serving as a parallel route to the north of 13th Street. 9th Street from Northwestern Avenue to Maxwell Avenue serves as a parallel route to the south of 13th Street. **Thus, signing both 16th Street and 9th Street as shared streets will be included with the project. Signage along Northwestern Ave, Meadowlane Ave, and Maxwell Ave to connect these parallel routes to 13th St would also be included.**

Staff met with representatives from the Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC) to discuss the project and the potential alternative parallel routes. Attached is a letter from ABC with comments. Overall, ABC is understanding and supportive of the need to designate parallel routes in this case and highlights the need for good signage to connect the 9th St and 16th St routes.

Due to COVID-19, staff prepared an informational video in lieu of a public meeting (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji12Va77rB4>). The video also provided information regarding the alternative parallel routes. **No input was received from the public.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Direct staff to proceed with the signing of 9th Street and 16th Street as alternative parallel bike routes through this project.
2. Direct staff to revise plans to include on-street bicycle facilities.

3. Do not proceed with this project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Proceeding with the alternative parallel routes through this project will make it possible to implement multi-modal improvements while following Complete Streets Plan guidance. Therefore, the City Manager recommends that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

The plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of this section of 13th Street, without an on-street bike path, will be brought before the City Council by June.

April 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC) is writing to comment on the plans for 13th Street between Meadowlane Avenue and Wilson Avenue, some of which is planned for work this summer. We had a chance to meet with city staff about the project in early March. ABC understands that is not currently possible to provide any on-street accommodation in this section of 13th Street as called for in the current long-range plan.

This is unfortunate because this corridor is just as important to cyclists as it is to drivers. As an example, visualize a bicycle commuter who lives on Garfield Avenue in West Ames would get to work at the Wolfe Eye Clinic on East 13th Street. The most direct route is obviously 13th Street all the way across town. However, we are asking them to go several blocks out of their way to alternate parallel routes on either 16th Street or 9th Street. This adds both time and distance to their bike commute. This is something we wouldn't ask of a motorist.

However, we are supportive of the city's plans to use the alternate routes for cyclists because it seems the most realistic way to move forward at this time. Good route signage must be installed to direct cyclists to these parallel routes as well as along the routes. We ask that the city engineer's consider any traffic calming measures that may be needed on 9th and 16th streets and that the enhanced pedestrian crossing planned for Grand and 16th Street be installed as quickly as the IDOT will allow. It is important that cyclists have a clear, seamless and safe alternate route available to them. It remains our hope that someday a better facility like a separated cycle path might be incorporated into the 13th Street corridor.

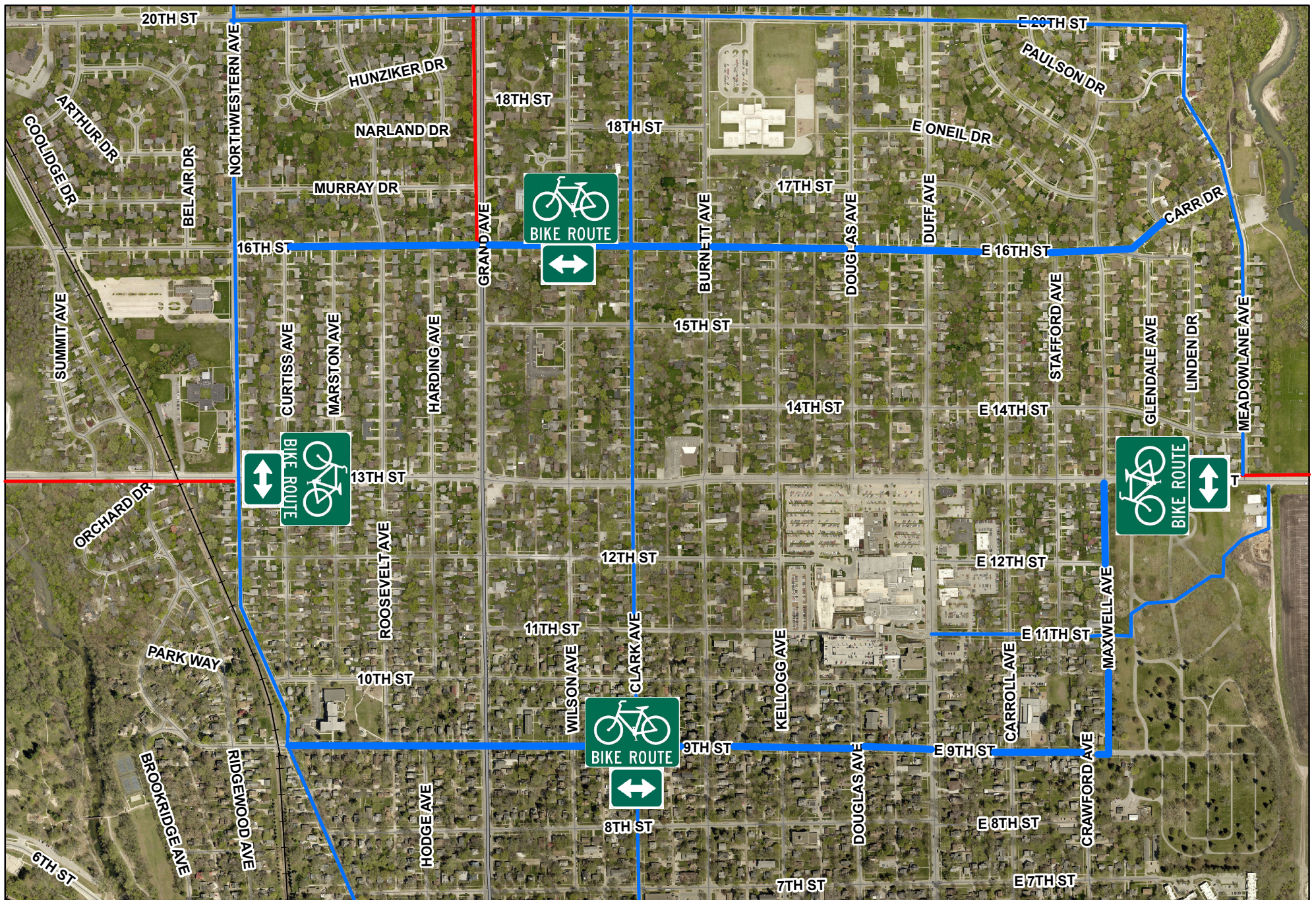
In addition, we would ask the council to consider how to make this section of 13th Street safe for pedestrians. Currently the old sidewalks are uneven and can be a hazard. We understand they will not all be replaced with this project. We would like the city to assess the condition of the sidewalks and consider replacement if needed as part of this project. We also hope that for the future the city will look into a grant or loan program to assist homeowners with replacement of sidewalks if one doesn't already exist. This is needed all around Ames but could be especially cost-effective when used in conjunction with a project such as this one on 13th Street.

Thank you for your consideration of all types of transportation in Ames.


Sincerely,


Ames Bicycle Coalition

Carol Williams, 628 8th Street, Ames



Bicycle Facilities near 13th Street

 Bicycle Friendly Street

 Shared Use Path



1 inch = 750 feet