

ITEM #: 25
DATE: 05-09-23
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REALLOCATING FUNDING FROM CHERRY AVENUE EXTENSION TO HYLAND AVENUE (LINCOLN WAY TO ONTARIO STREET)

BACKGROUND:

The City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,890,000 through the Iowa DOT Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for the Cherry Avenue Extension. The Cherry Street extension project was initially identified in the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as a potential solution to relieve traffic congestion at the Lincoln Way and Duff Avenue intersection. The options to address the congestion were to widen the intersection or provide alternative routes. The broad level modeling done with the LRTP showed the most cost-effective solution was to provide an alternative route.

However, regulations governing the development of the LRTP prohibit any engineering follow up to that initial modeling until the local government sponsor (City of Ames) programmed a project. Once the project was programmed, a traffic engineering study was needed to so that the proposed improvements would accommodate existing and future traffic patterns.

A traffic study with detailed modeling was performed for the Cherry Street extension project. This study found that the project provides little to no benefit in level of service and vehicle delay for current and 2045 projected traffic operations for the Lincoln Way and Duff Avenue intersection. In fact, the study found that the project will actually have negative impacts on traffic operations of S. 3rd and S. 5th Streets. When future development in the areas east of Wal-Mart and Target are included with the project, the study shows a decrease in level of service and a significant increase in delay for intersections in the area.

Based on the traffic study findings, staff recommends that the funding originally programmed for the Cherry Street extension project (including AAMPO funding) be reprogrammed to Hyland Avenue (Lincoln Way to Ontario Street). The current grant funding would continue to be secured and utilized by reprogramming the project location with the AAMPO to the Hyland Avenue project. These pavement improvements are needed to restore structural integrity, serviceability, and rideability.

The \$550,000 in Water Utility Funds that were programmed for the Cherry Avenue project have already been reallocated to the North River Valley Well Field project. The funding will be used to mitigate debt service costs associated with the SRF funding for the project.

Of the \$810,000 in G.O. bond funding originally issued for the Cherry Avenue project, approximately \$75,000 has been spent on engineering costs. The balance of \$735,000 remains available to be reallocated to the Hyland Ave project.

Revenues and expenses associated with this program are estimated, as follows:

	Revenue	Expenses
Federal/State Grants	\$ 1,890,000	
GO Bonds (Cherry Ave. balance)	\$ 735,000	
Hyland Ave (estimated)		\$ 2,375,000
Engineering/Administration (estimated)		\$ 250,000
	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 2,625,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve eliminating the Cherry Avenue Extension project from the current CIP and reallocating funds to the Hyland Avenue (Lincoln Way to Ontario Street) project.
2. Direct staff to pursue changes to the Cherry Ave Extension project.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based on the traffic study findings, staff recommends that the funding originally programmed for the Cherry Street extension project (including AAMPO funding) be reprogrammed to Hyland Avenue (Lincoln Way to Ontario Street). The Cherry Street connection itself will be reevaluated during the upcoming AAMPO LRTP (now Metropolitan Transportation Plan) update, which will begin later this year. Overall, this approach will allow for the most effective use of funds while still allowing the Cherry Street extension to be considered in the future if conditions change and a project is warranted.

The current pavement management data and field observations indicate that Hyland Ave. is in need of having the rehabilitation accelerated to prevent ongoing pavement degradation. Therefore, the reallocation of \$1,890,000 of AAMPO grant funds along with \$735,000 G.O. Bonds from the Cherry Avenue project will allow us to move ahead with the completion of the Hyland Ave. rehabilitation project in FY 2023/24 rather than in FY 2024/25 as currently planned for in the CIP.

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



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PRELIMINARY
SUBJECT TO CHANGE



2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update

PROJECT NO. 26
Cherry Avenue Extension -
Lincoln Way to SE 5th Street

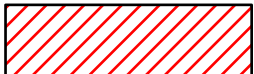
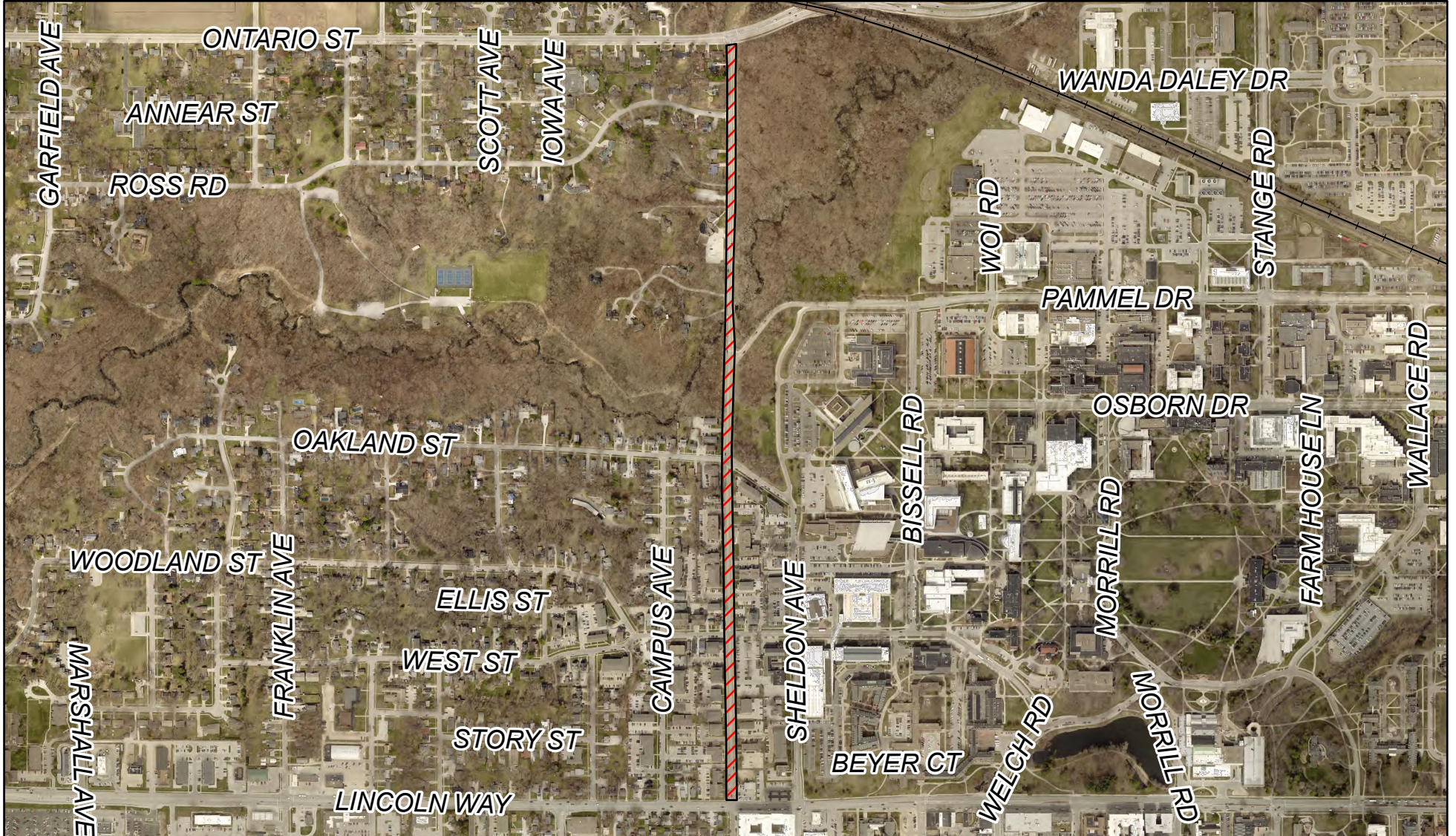
LEGEND

 PROPOSED ROAD

DATE
JULY 2010



2024/25 Arterial Street Pavement Improvements



Project Location

Hyland Ave: Lincoln Way to Ontario St.

