

ITEM # 17a
DATE: 11-25-08

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: US69 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS – 13TH STREET AND GRAND AVENUE (APPROVE U-STEP GRANT)

BACKGROUND:

Included in the 2008/2009 Capital Improvements Plan, is a project for the replacement of the 13th Street and Grand Avenue traffic signal. To cover a portion of the estimated cost of \$225,530 for the project, staff has worked with the District 1 Office of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) to secure an Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP) grant. This grant will reimburse the City of Ames for the eligible costs for construction and right-of-way required by the project. The eligible right-of-way only includes the land necessary for the placement of the signals.

The intent of the program is to improve traffic operation and safety concerns on primary roads in Iowa cities. It requires a local match of 45% for the construction and right-of-way costs (55% state-funded) for up to \$200,000 for this particular type of construction. This project is included in the budget in the amount of \$197,500 from the Road Use Tax fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the U-STEP grant from the IDOT for 55% of the anticipated, eligible construction and right-of-way costs, for the 2008/2009 US69 Intersection Improvements Program (13th Street and Grand Avenue).
2. Reject the grant application and fund the complete cost of the project out of the Road Use Tax fund.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of the grant is an important element for the funding of this project. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the U-STEP grant from the IDOT for 55% of the anticipated, eligible construction and right-of-way costs, for the 2008/2009 US69 Intersection Improvements Program (13th Street and Grand Avenue).