

ITEM # 176
DATE: 11-25-08

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: US69 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS – 13TH STREET AND GRAND AVENUE (APPROVE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS)

BACKGROUND:

This program is shown in the 2008/2009 Capital Improvements Plan for the replacement of the traffic signal system at the 13th Street and Grand Avenue intersection.

The current traffic signal has been used well beyond its anticipated usable lifetime. Therefore, existing equipment is significantly deteriorated and in need of replacement. This replacement will also require that the placement of the new signal poles meet current Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) setback requirements of 10 feet from back-of-curb to the facing edge of the poles.

WHKS & Co. has completed plans and specifications with estimated construction and right-of-way costs totaling \$225,530.00. This project is also eligible for IDOT Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (U-STEP) grant funding with a cost sharing of 55% from the state and 45% from the City, which is referenced as a separate agenda item. Based upon the estimated project total, this would provide approximately \$124,041.50 in state funding. The project is shown in the approved budget with financing established in the amount of \$197,500.00 from the Road Use Tax fund. Remaining funds will be utilized for contract administration and contingencies on this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the 2008/2009 US69 Intersection Improvements (13th Street and Grand Avenue signal replacement) plans and specifications by establishing December 10, 2008, as the date of letting and December 16, 2008, as the date for report of bids.
2. Reject the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the plans and specifications, the City of Ames will ensure the ongoing operation of the 13th Street and Grand Avenue intersection. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the 2008/2009 US69 Intersection Improvements (13th Street and Grand Avenue signal replacement) plans and specifications by establishing December 10, 2008, as the date of letting and December 16, 2008, as the date for report of bids.

Staff is still analyzing possible acquisition of three properties at the 13th Street and Grand Avenue intersection. Regardless of the determination made to, or not to, acquire these properties, this traffic signal project should proceed as planned.