



Memo

City Manager's Office

ITEM: # 25

TO: Mayor and Ames City Council Members
FROM: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager
DATE: February 20, 2009
SUBJECT: Priority Projects for Congressional Delegation

Each year, the Mayor and various City Council members travel to Washington, D.C., to present our Congressional Delegation with a list of priority projects for the coming years. In some instances we have a specific funding request to match a project, while other times, we have identified a project and are seeking advice as to an appropriate funding source.

The City Council has asked that the total body review and approve the list of projects that will be presented to our Congressional Delegation in March. Because of submittal deadlines for the reauthorization of the Transportation Bill, two projects that were granted earlier approval include the Grand Avenue Extension and North Dakota Avenue Railroad Grade Separation/Overpass.

As we prepare for our trip in early March, the Council should consider other projects that we should highlight for our Congressional Delegation. You will recall that I previously provided you with a spreadsheet reflecting 48 projects that we submitted to the Iowa Department of Economic Development based on the Governor's request for information. You might want to review this document to prepare for Tuesday's meeting.

Some projects I would suggest you highlight during your trip include:

- Grand Avenue Extension \$17,000,000
- North Dakota Avenue \$ 8,000,000
Railroad Grade Separation/Overpass
- East 13th Street Sanitary Sewer Extension/ \$10,000,000
Road Improvements

- Emergency Operations/Public Safety
Dispatch/Police Facility Upgrade \$ 800,000
- Water Pollution Control Plant Disinfection \$ 3,000,000
- Water Treatment Plant \$29,000,000

Most of these projects are not “shovel ready,” and therefore, most likely will not qualify for the stimulus monies. However, they are important projects that would greatly benefit from some level of federal funding. You, of course, might not agree with this list, so I will be seeking your input on Tuesday night regarding which of these projects should be presented to our federal representatives.