

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2010/11 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROGRAM (28th STREET / GRAND AVENUE)

BACKGROUND:

Included in the 2010/2011 Capital Improvements Plan is a project for the replacement of the 28th Street and Grand Avenue traffic signal system. To cover some of the costs of this \$175,000 project, staff has prepared a Traffic Safety Improvement Program grant application for the portion referring to Traffic Control Devices. If awarded, this will reimburse the City of Ames for the probable cost of materials. The entire project is currently shown in the CIP as being funded from the City's Road Use Tax fund.

This project includes modifying the signal installation to include all new underground and overhead equipment. The signal replacement is needed to enhance safety and provides a more reliable operation by updating the older equipment installed approximately 45 years ago. The existing signal poles, signal heads, and wiring are in poor condition and are susceptible to operational problems. The new installation will also have traffic signal pole setback distances in excess of ten feet on the north corners to meet the Iowa State Department of Transportation's clear zone requirements.

New equipment at this location will improve the overall safety for multi-modes of travel that are used at the intersection. Motorists will experience improved visibility with the proper alignment of all signal heads, since currently only northbound and southbound directions have mast arms which allow the signal heads to be located over each respective lane.

Pedestrians will experience improved safety for all age groups with the installation of countdown pedestrian signals for all directions. New pole locations will also allow for pedestrian indications to be placed such that they maximize visibility for all directions of travel.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Traffic Safety Improvement Program grant application to the Iowa Department of Transportation in the amount of \$155,000 for the 2010/2011 Traffic Signal Program (28th Street and Grand Avenue).
2. Do not approve 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 Traffic Safety Improvement Grant is an important element for the funding of this project. If awarded, it will provide a significant benefit to the City by reducing the burden on the City’s Road Use Tax fund.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Traffic Safety Improvement Program grant application to the IDOT in the amount of \$155,000 for the 2010/2011 Traffic Signal Program (28th Street and Grand Avenue).