

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CROSSING REPAIRS (DUFF AND CLARK AVENUES)

BACKGROUND:

Staff was contacted by Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) on May 13 regarding repair work that needs to be done to the several crossings in and around the Ames area. Two of the Ames crossings are either along an arterial street, Duff Avenue, or involve a CyRide route, Clark Avenue. The Municipal Code requires City Council approval to temporarily close these streets. The UPRR identified the weeks of May 24th and May 31st as their scheduled timeframe to conduct these surface repairs.

Staff was informed that the repairs would require approximately one to two days to complete for each location, at which point the crossing will need to be closed to vehicular traffic. Due to the heavy train traffic seen on the east-west mainline, UPRR makes their best effort to coordinate repair work with the normal train deliveries that occur. Recent experience with similar coordination efforts has resulted in the need for flexibility on the part of staff to be able to administratively change the date of the closure, as needed.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council delegate to staff the ability to administratively close the Clark Avenue and Duff Avenue railroad crossings for the purpose of UPRR conducting the required surface repairs.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Delegate to staff the ability to administratively approve the closure of Clark Avenue and Duff Avenue to facilitate UPRR surface repair work.
2. Approve the closure of Clark Avenue and Duff Avenue railroad crossing for the weeks of May 24th and May 31st only.
3. Direct staff to work with UPRR in finding an alternate date to conduct the repairs.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By granting staff the ability to administratively approve the closure of Clark and Duff Avenues, Council would allow the City of Ames to best coordinate with the UPRR while minimizing the potential impacts to the citizens of Ames.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby delegating to staff the ability to administratively approve the closure of Clark Avenue and Duff Avenue to facilitate UPRR surface repair work.