

ITEM # 5  
DATE: 02-25-14

## **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT  
FOR MORTENSEN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

This project is shown in the 2014/15 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Work will include the widening of Mortensen Road between South Dakota Avenue and Dotson Drive to accommodate turn lanes, a bus acceleration lane, and consolidation of redundant bus stop. This section of roadway has experienced increasing traffic congestion due to on-street Cy-Ride stops in the area, commuter traffic from Iowa State University employees and students, ingress/egress traffic to the Ames Middle School, and increased traffic due to additional housing being constructed in the West Ames area. This widening project is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. A plan view of the project layout is attached.

Congestion will continue to increase as Dotson Drive is eventually extended northward to Lincoln Way unless improvements are made. A development agreement for the Middle School specifies that the Dotson Drive extension will be completed by the Ames Community School District within two years after the South Fork section of Dotson Drive is constructed. It is unknown at this time when the South Fork section will be constructed.

The City submitted a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant application in 2013 to help cover the cost of materials for this project, which equates to \$391,334. After reviewing the grant application, Iowa Department of Transportation officials have approved the request and submitted the funding agreement. The TSIP grant requires a local match of 20 percent, which is shown in the 2014/15 CIP through funding in the amount of \$110,000 from Road Use Tax, bringing the total program funding to \$501,334.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the TSIP agreement with the Iowa DOT in the amount of \$391,334.
2. Reject the agreement and fund the project locally.

### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approving the TSIP grant agreement will offset the amount of local funds needed for this project. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.

**Plan View:**

