

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF STATE AVENUE FOR IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

BACKGROUND:

Last year the City reconstructed the section of State Avenue from Oakwood Road northwards to a point 500' south of Mortensen Road. From that point up to Mortensen, the roadway abuts Iowa State University property on both sides, and thus is an "institutional road" under the stewardship of the State of Iowa.

ISU recently initiated a project to mill and overlay their section of State Avenue. However, on Friday, May 23rd, City staff was informed by ISU staff that their reconstruction project had run into unanticipated issues that require the roadway to be closed to traffic. ISU staff felt there were significant safety risks that necessitated the road closing during this phase of construction.

This closure will begin on Wednesday, May 28th, and will last for approximately two weeks. To effectuate this closure, **the segment of State Avenue from Mortensen Road south to Meadow Glen will be temporarily closed to traffic. Since State Avenue is classified as an arterial street, this closure requires City Council approval.**

During the reconstruction project on the City's portion of State Avenue last fall, it was made clear by the residents in the area that closing the road was not desirable. At that time City staff was able to accommodate their request by staging the project to allow for continuous access to the residents. However, the issues encountered on ISU's portion will unfortunately not allow a similar approach.

ISU will be handling a majority of the public outreach for this closure. In addition, City staff has offered to use our changeable message boards to help inform our citizens. Staff will also continue to coordinate with ISU and their contractor as needed until the roadway can be reopened to traffic.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Delegate to City Staff the ability to administratively close State Avenue for ISU's reconstruction project.
2. Direct staff to work with ISU to develop alternatives.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recent experience with similar multi-party coordination efforts has resulted in the need for flexibility on the part of City staff to be able to administratively change the date of the closure as needed.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council accept Alternative #1, thereby delegating to City Staff the ability to administratively close State Avenue for ISU's reconstruction project.

Staff will coordinate the placement of all appropriate temporary traffic control measures, and will also work with the City's Public Relations Officer to notify the public throughout the duration of ISU's project.