

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2015/16 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROGRAM (UNIVERSITY BLVD. & HWY 30 WESTBOUND OFF-RAMP) & 2017/18 TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROGRAM (EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET & INTERSTATE 35 NORTHBOUND OFF RAMP)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Capital Improvement Plan's Traffic Signal Program provides for replacing older traffic signals and for constructing new traffic signals in the City. Program goals include improved traffic flow and safety, as well as improved visibility, reliability, and signal aesthetics. **This specific project is for installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of University Boulevard and the Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp.** The need for this project was identified in a traffic impact study for the ISU Research Park Phase III expansion.

Staff has completed plans and specifications for this contract with a base bid (all work except purchasing backup equipment) plus one add alternate bid. The alternate bid is included to potentially purchase backup replacement equipment for the pedestrian push buttons and the vehicle radar detection systems.

On May 4, 2016, bids for the project were received as follows:

<i>Bidder</i>	<i>Base Bid</i>	<i>Bid Alternate</i>	<i>Total Bid (Base + Alternate)</i>
<b>Engineer's Estimate</b>	<b>\$176,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 196,200.00</b>
Iowa Signal Inc.	\$165,150.66	\$ 18,920.00	\$ 184,070.66
Baker Electric	\$164,989.40	\$ 19,658.00	\$ 184,647.40
K&W Electric	\$167,968.28	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 186,968.28
Voltmer Inc.	\$174,071.13	\$ 18,865.00	\$ 192,936.13

Currently, the 2015/16 Capital Improvements Plan includes Road Use Tax funding of \$125,000 and ISU funding of \$125,000 for this project, bringing total project funding to \$250,000.

**Recently, the City staff has received word that the Iowa DOT desires to provide U-STEP funding to replace the City's portion of this project. In turn, DOT would like those same Road Use Tax dollars to instead be used as matching funds for a signal project the Iowa DOT has identified as high-priority at the Northbound I-35 off-ramp at East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The Iowa DOT determined that the off-ramp was in need of signalization after conducting their annual count program for calendar year 2015.**

Under their proposal, the Iowa DOT would use U-STEP funding to pay for 50% of the overall University Blvd./Highway 30 signal costs and 55% of the Northbound I-35 off-ramp/East 13<sup>th</sup> Street signal construction and right-of-way costs. ISU would continue to have a 50% share of overall project costs for the signal at University Boulevard, as originally planned. ISU staff is aware of this proposal and have agreed that the

alternative funding arrangement with the Iowa DOT will not change ISU's contribution to the signal at University Boulevard/Highway 30.

On May 10, 2016, City Council approved the report of bids and the final plans and specifications for the signal project at University/HW30. Items remaining to be approved are two (2) U-STEP agreements for University/HW30 (FY2015/16) and Interstate 35/E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street (FY2017/18 – with construction in 2017). If City Council agrees with the Iowa DOT proposal, an award of the project to the low bidder from the May 4<sup>th</sup> letting will also need approval. A summary of the budget for both projects is shown below:

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>University &amp; HW 30</b>	<b>I 35 &amp; 13th</b>	<b>Total Exp.</b>
Design & Inspection	\$24,000.00	\$24,000	\$48,000.00
Construction	*\$165,151.66	\$180,000	\$345,151.66
Bid Alternate	*\$18,920.00	\$20,000	\$38,920.00
	\$208,071.66	\$224,000	\$432,071.66

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>		
ISU	\$104,035.33	-	\$104,035.33
U-STEP	\$104,035.33	\$110,000	\$214,035.33
Road Use Tax	-	\$114,000	\$114,000.00
	\$208,071.66	\$224,000	\$432,071.66

\*amounts based upon bids, all other amounts are estimated with contingency.

**The table shows that both projects can be fully funded by moving the City's funding to the I35/13<sup>th</sup> St traffic signal and supplementing each project with U-STEP funds. It should be noted that this will not require additional funding from either ISU or the City of Ames.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Approve the U-STEP agreement for the 2015/16 Traffic Signal Program (University Boulevard & Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp)
- b. Approve the U-STEP agreement for the 2017/18 Traffic Signal Program (E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Interstate 35 Northbound Off-Ramp)
- c. Award the 2015/16 Traffic Signal Program (University Boulevard & Highway 30 Westbound Off-Ramp) with Bid Alternate to Iowa Signal, Inc., of Grimes, Iowa, in the amount of \$184,070.66.
2. Do not proceed with the project at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

By awarding this project, it will be possible to move forward with the goal of having the signal installed and operational prior to this autumn's first ISU home football game. These two signal projects will provide needed operational improvements to two off-ramp intersections that are currently experiencing significant delays and queuing.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.