

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AIRPORT UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE CROSSING

BACKGROUND:

Recent additions to the Bricktowne Development along S. Duff Avenue and the ISU Research Park have placed increased demand on the City's electric system south of U.S. Hwy. 30. To support this growth and provide for increased reliability, Electric Services staff plans to install a buried electric line that would cross underneath the Ames Airport, and would tie the feeder serving the ISU Research Park (South Riverside Drive) to South Duff Avenue, via the Bricktowne Development (see attached map).

Electric Services retained Bolton & Menk to design this project, including preparation of plans and specifications and completion of the necessary documentation to obtain approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the underground electric line. A contractor will be retained to install the substructure (conduit and vaults) for this line. Once complete, City electric crews will pull the cable and terminate the line.

The Engineer's estimate of the cost to install the substructure is \$200,000. The cable will be taken from inventory and charged to this project. The FY 2022/23 Operating Budget for Underground System Improvements includes \$331,000 for this work.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for the Airport Underground Line Crossing, and set March 1, 2023, as the due date for bids and March 14, 2023, as the date of public hearing and award of contract.
2. Do not proceed with the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary to support existing and future growth south of U.S. 30. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1 as stated above.

