

ITEM #: 17
DATE: 03-25-25
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **2024/25 AIRPORT ENTRYWAY IMPROVEMENTS (ENTRY ROAD)**

BACKGROUND:

The FY 2024/25 Airport Entryway Improvements program includes a project to reconstruct Airport Drive, the primary entry road to the James Herman Banning Ames Municipal Airport. This project focuses on the full reconstruction of the main entryway road, enhancing access and traffic flow efficiency for airport users.

While this phase is dedicated to roadway improvements, future phases of the program will include signage for improved wayfinding, landscaping enhancements in FY 2025/26, and phased parking lot expansions from FY 2027/28 to FY 2028/29. These improvements align with the Airport Master Plan and FAA best practices.

This project was reflected in the adopted FY 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Plan with a cost of \$680,000 for design and construction. After developing the specifications, the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost reflected a cost of \$925,000 for construction, in addition to the \$80,000 for design and administration, for a total project cost of \$1,005,000. As a result of this cost estimate, staff directed the engineer to divide the project into a base bid and a bid alternate, which will provide the City with options depending on the competitiveness of the bids. Additionally, staff has identified that the Airport Improvements Fund has a balance of approximately \$338,000, which could be used to finance the shortfall if bids are near the engineer's estimate.

The table below summarizes the revenues and expenses for this project:

Revenues		Expenses	
G.O. Bonds	\$680,000	Design	\$72,700
Airport Improvements Fund***	\$325,000	Admin/Inspections	\$7,300
		Construction (Base Bid)	\$600,000
		Construction (Bid Alt-See Attachment)	\$325,000
Totals	\$1,005,000	Totals	\$1,005,000

***Available balance is approximately \$338,000

Based on recent bidding experience, staff is optimistic that the bids for the construction of the entire project will be less than the engineer's estimate, allowing the project to proceed as planned in the CIP. However, in the event that the total of the base bid and bid alternate exceed the \$600,000 budgeted for construction, staff will evaluate the options and recommend either awarding only the base bid (with the remaining roadway section delayed to a future project), or supplementing the bond funds with available balance from the Airport Improvements Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the 2024/25 Airport Entryway Improvements (Entry Road) project, setting Wednesday, April 16, 2025, as the bid due date and Tuesday, April 22, 2025, as the date for the public hearing and report of bids.
2. Do not approve this project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Airport Entryway Project is expected to significantly improve the condition, appearance, and functionality of the roadway leading to the airport Terminal Building. This project is an important first step in enhancing the airport as a gateway to the Ames community. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Airport Landside Improvements Entry Road - Location Map](#)

[Airport Entryway - Bid Alt Map](#)

[Airport Entryway Imps CIP Page](#)

[Final Plans](#)

[Final Specifications](#)