

ITEM #: 25
 DATE: 08-12-25
 DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **AGREEMENT WITH IOWA DOT FOR SANITARY SEWER RELOCATION**

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has scheduled a project for the 2026 construction season along eastbound US Highway 30, from South Duff Avenue to South Dayton Avenue in Ames. **As part of this project, the eastbound entrance ramps from South Duff Avenue to US 30 will be reconstructed and realigned further south, bringing the new alignment closer to the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex access road.**

A sanitary sewer main, originally constructed in 1963, currently runs parallel to the existing eastbound ramp and serves approximately 150 acres of commercial property south of Highway 30. This main lies within the DOT right-of-way (ROW) under an existing permit. The proposed roadway improvements will result in three manholes falling within the new pavement section, with a fourth requiring grade adjustment. **DOT policy prohibits utility structures within pavement sections on high-speed roadways due to safety concerns, necessitating relocation of the sewer main at the City's expense.**

The DOT has prepared a Preconstruction Agreement (attached) that allows the sanitary sewer relocation to be included in the overall DOT project plans and bid through the DOT letting process. By including the sanitary sewer relocation with the DOT project, the City can take advantage of mobilization and other related utility work associated with the DOT's project. **The City will be responsible for design, inspection, and final approval of the sanitary sewer work. The DOT's contractor will perform the sewer relocation and the City will be billed for these project components upon completion, in accordance with the Agreement's reimbursement provisions.**

Unallocated Sanitary Sewer Funds are available to cover the estimated cost of this project.

Program	Revenue	Expenses
Sewer Utility Fund Balance	\$450,000	
Construction		\$400,000
Engineering/Administration (Est.)		\$50,000
Total	\$450,000	\$450,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Preconstruction Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for the sanitary sewer relocation with the PCC Pavement - Grade and New project.
2. Do not approve the Preconstruction Agreement and direct staff to review other alternatives.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Relocating the sanitary sewer structures outside of the Iowa DOT's right-of-way will enhance roadway ride quality, reduce the risk of damage to the sanitary sewer from snow removal operations, and improve safety for City staff performing routine maintenance.

The proposed Preconstruction Agreement facilitates coordination with the broader highway reconstruction project while ensuring the sanitary sewer improvements meet City design and construction standards. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[US 30 Sanitary Sewer Relocation Map.pdf](#)
[Preconstruction Agreement.pdf](#)