

ITEM #:	14
DATE:	08-11-26
DEPT:	ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 161 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONSTRUCTION - IOWA DOT I-35 & 290TH STREET PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) is carrying out highway improvements along Interstate 35 north of Ankeny. These improvements include construction where 290th Street crosses I-35 in Story County. The City owns a 161kV electric transmission line that is situated on private property adjacent to IDOT right of way in this area. The IDOT construction project will require temporary relocation of a portion of the transmission line in vicinity of 290th Street. **All costs associated with this relocation project will be reimbursed by the IDOT.**

On March 24, 2026, Council approved a professional services agreement with DGR Engineering for the design and engineering of this project in the total amount of \$239,000. The action now being requested is for the approval of plans and specifications for the Ames Plant to NE Ankeny 161 kV Transmission Line Iowa DOT Relocation. Staff is asking to set September 9, 2026, as the bid due date and September 22, 2026, as the date of public hearing and award of contract.

The engineer's estimate for the construction phase of this relocation project is \$1,323,245. Council also previously approved an engineering reimbursement agreement with IDOT in the total amount of \$383,400, which includes \$291,000 for engineering services and \$92,400 for easement acquisition. The easement acquisition will be performed by the IDOT and is not included in the City's project cost.

The current estimated total project cost is \$1,562,245 including \$239,000 for engineering and the \$1,323,245 as estimated construction cost. The approved FY 2026/27 Capital Improvements Plan includes \$1,500,000 under the project titled "161 kV Line Relocation." **Because this project is 100% reimbursed by the IDOT, the CIP project will be amended with the fall budget amendment to match the project cost.**

All engineering and construction expenses for the project will be reimbursed by IDOT. **A reimbursement agreement has already been signed and is attached.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for the 161 kV Transmission Line Reconstruction - Iowa DOT I-35 & 290th Street project, and setting September 9, 2026, as the bid due date, and September 22, 2026, as date of Public Hearing.
2. Do not approve plans and specifications at this time, which would delay the IDOT's project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In order to facilitate these IDOT improvements, the City's 161 kV transmission line must be relocated. The relocation costs will be reimbursed by IDOT after the City designs, bids, and constructs the work. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Story Co - U-2026-85-001 - City of Ames - IMN-035-4\(286\)104--0E-85\(ROW\)_Signed.pdf](#)