

ITEM #: 16
 DATE: 01-27-26
 DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2022/23 BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAM (S. 4TH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER IOWAY CREEK)

BACKGROUND:

This project includes constructing a prefabricated pedestrian bridge over Ioway Creek along the southeast side of the existing bridge on S. 4th Street, and constructing a shared use path from the north side of the pedestrian bridge to the intersection of S. 4th Street & University Blvd, as shown in the attached map. This shared use path will provide connectivity from University Blvd across Ioway Creek along the south side of S. 4th Street.

Staff has been working with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa to develop plans and specifications for construction of the project with a total estimated construction cost of \$1,603,006.40. The table below shows estimated expenses and revenues for this project:

Expenses	Amount	Revenues	Amount
Design	\$ 95,000.00		
Construction (current estimate)	\$ 1,603,006.40		
Contract Administration	\$ 50,000.00		
		FY 22/23 Bridge Rehab G.O. Bonds	\$700,000
		Iowa State University Funding (estimated)	\$80,200
		Skunk River Trail Redirected Local Option Funding	\$800,000
		FY 23/24 Bridge Rehab Road Use Tax	\$300,000
Totals	\$ 1,748,006.40		\$1,880,200

The prefabricated steel bridge market has seen significant cost increases since this project was programmed, including significant volatilities in the Ipe (or Brazilian walnut) wood market, which is used for the bridge deck. **At its July 22, 2025 meeting, the City Council directed staff to utilize a portion of the Skunk River Trail (E. Lincoln Way to SE 16th Street) funding to facilitate the completion of this project, while pursuing other alternatives for the Skunk River Trail crossing of Ioway Creek. The table above shows \$800,000 in Skunk River Trail Local Option funds for this project. The table also shows \$300,000 in Road Use Tax funds from the FY 23/24 Bridge Rehab (E. 13th Street Skunk River Bridge) project that staff recommends reprogramming to this project. The E. 13th Street Skunk River Bridge project will be added back at a later time in a future CIP.**

The existing S. 4th Street roadway bridge over Ioway Creek is expected to have approximately 25-30 years of remaining service life before replacement is needed. The proposed prefabricated pedestrian bridge is anticipated to last well beyond that timeframe. Should the future roadway bridge replacement be constructed with an integral shared-use path, the prefabricated pedestrian bridge has included several design elements that make relocation of the pedestrian bridge possible. These include an ipe wood deck in lieu of concrete and a painted finish to protect steel members from salt spray from the adjacent roadway. **Although these decisions increase the initial construction cost, they improve durability and flexibility, resulting in a stronger long-term investment in the City's bridge infrastructure.**

Shared use-path construction is anticipated for the summer of 2026. Due to significant lead times for the pedestrian bridge, it is estimated the bridge, and path connections to the bridge, are installed in spring 2027. Staff has coordinated extensively with the Iowa State University and adjacent properties regarding the construction activities for this project, and will provide additional coordination as construction progresses.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for the construction of the 2022/23 Bridge Rehabilitation Program (S. 4th Pedestrian Bridge over Ioway Creek), setting February 18, 2026, as the bid due date and February 24, 2026, as the date of Public Hearing for report of bids.
2. Do not move forward with this project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project will complete a significant bicycle and pedestrian connection for all users of the area, including large special events. Approval of the plans and specifications will continue to keep this project on pace for 2026-2027 construction. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Map.pdf](#)
[Final Plans.pdf](#)
[Final Spec Book.pdf](#)