

ITEM #: 1
DATE: 09-17-24
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **2024/25 SOUTH 16TH STREET ROADWAY WIDENING - ROADWAY EASEMENT**

BACKGROUND:

South 16th Street, from University Boulevard to Apple Place, is a two-lane institutional road owned by and under the jurisdiction of Iowa State University. This roadway serves as a minor arterial road, and its current configuration is not sufficient for the demands placed on it by routine traffic, transit buses, and athletic event traffic.

To address these constraints, the City has pursued a project to reconstruct and widen South 16th Street to four lanes from University Boulevard to Veterinary Medicine Trail, transform the roadway into an urban cross section with curb and gutter, and traffic control improvements at Christensen Drive and South Riverside Drive. The proposed project would include extension of box culvert at Worrell Creek, and multi-use trail along the south and north side of South 16th Street from University Boulevard to Veterinary Medicine Trail.

Because this project is being undertaken by the City on University property, a significant amount of coordination is necessary. To manage this, staff from the City and ISU have developed a roadway easement document, which is now presented for Council approval (attached). This easement describes the process to be used to finalize the construction details, construct the project, and for the City to operate and maintain the roadway into the future. The completed roadway will be under the jurisdiction and regulatory authority of the City. Once approved by the City, the easement will be submitted to the Board of Regents for approval on behalf of ISU.

The design of this project is nearing completion. The plans have been reviewed by ISU and City staff at the preliminary plan stage. The final plans are scheduled to be submitted to Iowa State University and Iowa DOT for a February bid letting. The current plan is to begin Phase I of the construction in Spring 2025 and begin Phase II of the construction in Spring 2026. The project budget is provided below:

Program Budget:

Funding Source	Available Revenue	Estimated Expenses
2023/24 G.O. Bonds	\$ 325,000	
2024/25 G.O. Bonds	\$ 741,000	
2024/25 STP Funds	\$2,814,000	
Construction		\$3,230,000
Engineering/Administration		\$ 650,000
TOTAL	\$3,880,000	\$3,880,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the roadway easement with Iowa State University for South 16th Street reconstruction and widening project.
2. Reject the easement agreement and direct staff to negotiate different terms for this easement with Iowa State University.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of this easement agreement enables the Board of Regents to consider approval at its next meeting. Delaying or rejecting the agreement would delay the bidding process and likely defer this project to the next construction season. The easement agreement addresses the process for the construction and ongoing operation of the roadway. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[EasementPlat\(current\).pdf](#)

[S. 16th Street Roadway Easement Document.pdf](#)