

ITEM #: 20
DATE: 04-22-25
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

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

BACKGROUND:

South 16th Street is a Minor Arterial, two-lane rural cross section roadway from University Boulevard east to the Veterinary Medicine Trail where it widens to four lanes which extends to the intersection with South Grand Avenue.

While this section of the roadway is owned by Iowa State University, the staff has recommended, for this one instance, that the City will pay for this improvement since the City's extension of Grand Avenue into S. 16th has increased the traffic volume and negatively impacted the intersection operations at S. 16th and University Blvd. Following construction, the roadway and trail will be owned by the City of Ames in a roadway easement which will give the City full control and access.

This project will include widening South 16th Street to four lanes from University Boulevard to the Veterinary Medicine Trail, transforming the roadway into an urban cross section with curb and gutter. The proposed project also includes extension of the box culvert at Worrell Creek and a multi-use trail along the south and north sides of South 16th Street from University Boulevard to the Veterinary Medicine Trail.

This project will have a May 20, 2025, letting conducted through the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), which is a requirement of using the MPO/STP funding. To accommodate the ISU academic calendar and football season, the project will be constructed in two phases.

This project was initially included in the DOT bid letting on March 18, 2025; however, it was discovered that a required approval step had been missed that would not have allowed the City to accept the bids. Once staff discovered this error, and following consultation with the DOT Office of Contracts, the bids that were received were not opened nor read aloud. The project was able to be moved to the May 20, 2025 bid letting with the proper approvals now in place through this council action.

The summary of the estimated revenues and expenses for this project are shown below.

Funding Source	Available Revenue	Estimated Expenses
2023/24 G.O. Bonds	\$ 325,000	
Stormwater Utility Fund	\$ 250,000	
Previously Issued Bonds	\$ 741,000	
2024/25 STBG Funds	\$ 2,814,000	
Construction (Est.)		\$ 3,762,873
Engineering Administration		\$ 325,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,130,000	\$ 4,087,873

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Throughout the design process, staff from the City of Ames and Shive Hattery, the consultant design engineer, conducted multiple meetings with representatives from Iowa State University (ISU). ISU staff coordinated internally with both the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Athletics to communicate all proposed design changes and project phasing.

At the 95% design completion stage, City and Shive Hattery staff held a focused meeting with the College of Veterinary Medicine to review all phases of the project and discuss how traffic access to their facilities would be maintained throughout construction. Feedback received during this meeting was reviewed and incorporated into the final project design.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for the 2024/25 South 16th Street Roadway Widening, and establish May 20, 2025, as the date of letting and May 27, 2025, as the date of report of bids.
2. Do not approve this project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project will be let by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), which is a requirement of using the MPO/STP funding. Approval of the plans and specifications will continue to keep this project on the Iowa DOT's May 20, 2025, letting schedule. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[S. 16th Widening.pdf](#)