

DES MOINES TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2024
MINUTES

The Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee met in the Board Room at the Municipal Service Center, 2nd Floor, 1551 E Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, at 7:30 a.m. on February 13, 2024. Those members in attendance were:

Scott Bents
Tony Filippini
Blake Hanson

Brianne Sanchez
Meg Schneider
Renda Barbieri-Snyder

Members Absent: Jarrett Belden and Stephanie Fleckenstein

Staff Present: John Davis, Jen Dakovich, Corey Bogenreif, Molly Long, and Emily Voeller

Guests Present: Carol Maher, Matt Hardin, Stephanie Hemberger, and Alec Davis

Scott Bents called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Brianne Sanchez added an item to the agenda, designated as item #2, to discuss a Proposed Resolution to increase the Franchise Fee to support DART services.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of November Minutes

The committee approved the November 14, 2023, minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Thomas Beck Road Improvements – Bancroft Street to SW 7th Street

Corey Bogenreif, Principal Traffic Engineer, presented the background, goal, and next steps of the study. *(Note: Page numbers noted below correspond to the attached presentation slides.)*

Project Background (pg. 3)

- Thomas Beck Road is on the Public Works resurfacing list for 2024.
- Bancroft to SW 7th Street is the only stretch of Thomas Beck with 5-lanes.
- Southwest Infrastructure Study completed in February 2022 recommended reducing from 5-lanes to 3-lanes

Project Goal (pg. 3)

- Resurface the street
- Construct 5-foot sidewalk on the south side to connect SW 7th Street to MacRae Park Trail
- Reduce street cross-section from 5-lanes to 3-lanes
- Create a consistent corridor

SW 9th Corridor Study is currently underway

- SW 9th slip ramp is being evaluated

Next Steps (pg. 5)

- Current – Design
- April 2024 – Bid Letting
- May – December 2024 - Construction

Committee Discussion

Brianne Sanchez asked if extra trail crossing signage would be installed. Corey Bogenreif stated all marking would be refreshed and existing pedestrian crossing signage will remain.

Meg Schneider inquired if the street would be closed. Corey said there will be a time when the street will be completely closed, but not for the whole duration of the project.

Scott Bents asked if sewer work would be necessary. Corey Bogenreif explained this street has a reverse crown, which enables curb removal without having to rebuild the storm sewer and intakes.

Renda Barbieri-Snyder asked if the pedestrian crossing would remain. Corey Bogenreif confirmed pedestrian crossing would remain.

Public Comments

Carol Maher questioned the speed limits along Thomas Beck Road. Corey Bogenreif said a speed analysis was not completed because this project is only a couple blocks but could be considered in the future. Carol Maher asked about traffic turning left from SW 7th Street to Thomas Beck Road. Corey Bogenreif explained that the existing eastbound left turn is a dual left. This will be modified to a single left turn lane and single through lane that aligns better than the present lane configuration

Alec Davis mentioned that on Thomas Beck Road often water and ice pools in the pedestrian crossing near MacRae park. Corey Bogenreif said he will discuss this issue with the designers.

MOTION was made by Brianna Sanchez to approve the Thomas Beck Road Improvements – Bancroft Street to SW 7th Street; seconded by Blake Hanson. Motion passed 6:0.

2. Proposed Resolution to Increase Franchise Fee to Support DART Services.

Brianne Sanchez presented a proposed resolution to increase the Franchise Fee to 2.5 percent to support DART services.

Committee Discussion

Renda Barbieri-Snyder inquired if the 2.5 percent is just for the City of Des Moines or for other surrounding communities and wondered if the increase would prevent layoffs for DART employees.

Scott Bents reiterated we are not responsible for other communities, but the committee can recommend the increase to the Council for consideration.

Blake Hanson stated that the resolution is in-line with the purpose of this committee and supports the other City initiatives – MoveDSM, etc.

Public Comment

Alec Davis supported the increased percentage to the franchise fee to preserve frequent and reliable service. He stated only communities with a population of greater than 200,000 can implement the increased percentage to the franchise fee.

Matt Hardin supported the increase to the franchise fee, as the convenience of the DART locations was one of the reasons his family decided to purchase their home.

MOTION was made by Meg Schneider to present the proposed resolution to increase the franchise fee to support DART services to Council; seconded by Renda Barbieri-Snyder. Abstain: Tony Filippini. Motion passed 5:0.

3. Update on Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan

John Davis, City Traffic Engineer, updated the Committee that the City was not selected for the 2023 Safe Streets for All Grant. Staff is virtually meeting with the City of Minneapolis to discuss tactics on how they were selected in the second round as a grant recipient.

Third consideration of the ordinance change amending the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee will go to Council February 19, 2024. The Access Advisory Board has not determined how they would like to be engaged in the Transportation Safety Committee. The next potential Access Advisory Board meeting is in March.

Brianne Sanchez asked if there was a way with the public health department to have input related to accessibility for limited mobility users.

John Davis reached out to the Des Moines Public School to discuss having one of their certified mobility specialists on the Committee or as a valued resource. He also met with the Division of the Blind. They are not in favor of the audible pushbuttons at the traffic signals. Their goal is to enable their clients to navigate in their hometowns. Often the extra noise of the audible pushbuttons serves as a distraction.

Committee Discussion

Meg Schneider wondered if the projects are on hold due to not being awarded the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant.

John Davis stated that as part of the SS4A application, we included five streets on the high injury network to show project readiness. Some are in the CIP and will proceed with only City funding. The idea was to use federal funding to aid other projects. We were looking to make enhancements on Forest Avenue, which will be reassessed.

Public Comments

Carol Maher expressed excitement of IDOT involvement in the committee. She asked who was serving on the MPO's Vision Zero Steering Committee. She wanted to know if it was open to the public like the Bike/Ped Roundtable. John Davis suggested she contact Dylan Mullenix or Zach Young with the MPO for information on public engagement.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Emily Voeller

Emily Voeller
Recording Secretary

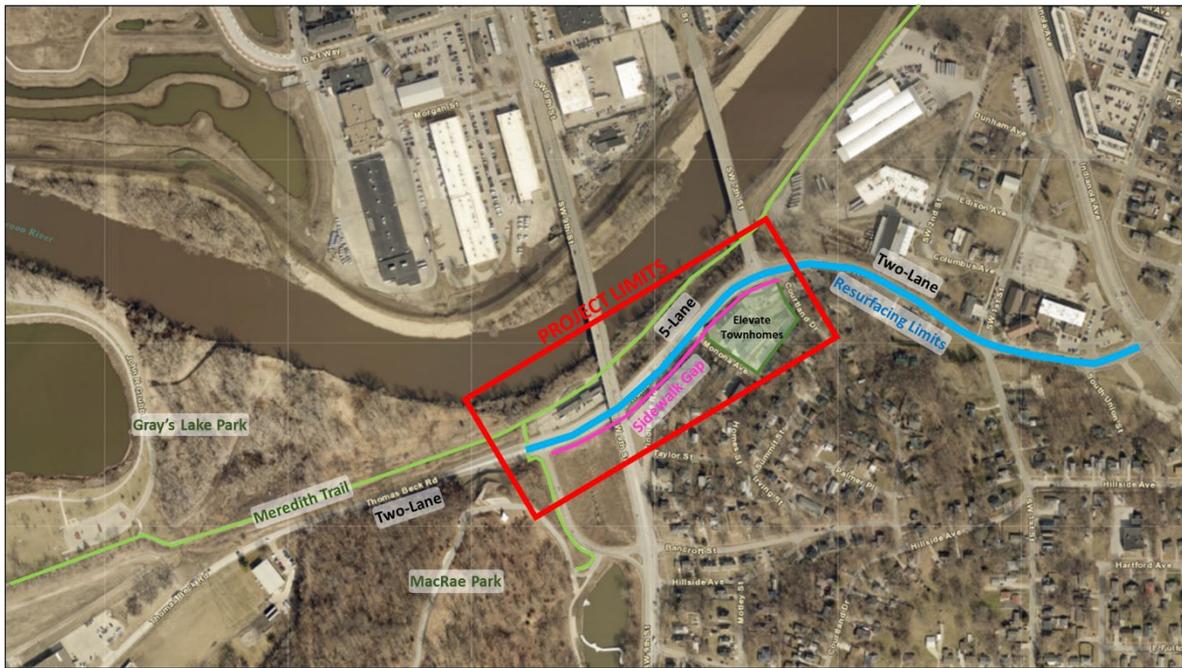
DES MOINES TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

	Old Business Item 1		New Business Item 1		New Business Item 2		
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Abstain
	Renda Barbieri-Snyder	X		X		X	
Jarrett Belden							
Scott Bents	X		X		X		
Tony Filippini	X		X				X
Stephanie Fleckenstein							
Blake Hanson	X		X		X		
Brianne Sanchez	X		X		X		
Meg Schneider	X		X		X		

ITEM #1: Thomas Beck Road Improvements – Bancroft Street to SW 7th Street

BACKGROUND:

The [Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study](#) was completed in February 2022. This study was initiated to determine future roadway improvements on the southwest side of Des Moines. The study recommended reducing Thomas Beck Road from 5-lanes to 3-lanes between Bancroft Street and SW 7th Street as well as creating a connection to the existing trail system. Currently, Thomas Beck Road is a two-lane street to the west and east. In addition to the recommendations in the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study, Thomas Beck Road is planned for street resurfacing in 2024. Below is a map showing the extents of the project.



Along with street resurfacing, this project will move the existing curbs in to reduce the number of lanes from 5-lanes to 3-lanes. This project will also include the construction of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the street to connect SW 7th Street to the McRae Park Trail Spur/Meredith Trail.

This project is planned for design this spring and will be bid for construction in April. Construction is expected from May to December of this year. In addition to the public outreach as part of the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study, this project was presented at the Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods Quarterly Meeting on January 29, 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the recommended improvements proposed with the Thomas Beck Road Improvement Project.

Thomas Beck Road Improvements Bancroft Street to SW 7th Street

Transportation Safety Committee

February 13, 2024

Project Background

- Thomas Beck Road/Indianola Road planned for resurfacing
- Bancroft to SW 7th is the only stretch of Thomas Beck with 5-lanes
- Southwest Infrastructure Study (completed in February 2022) recommended road diet and trail connection

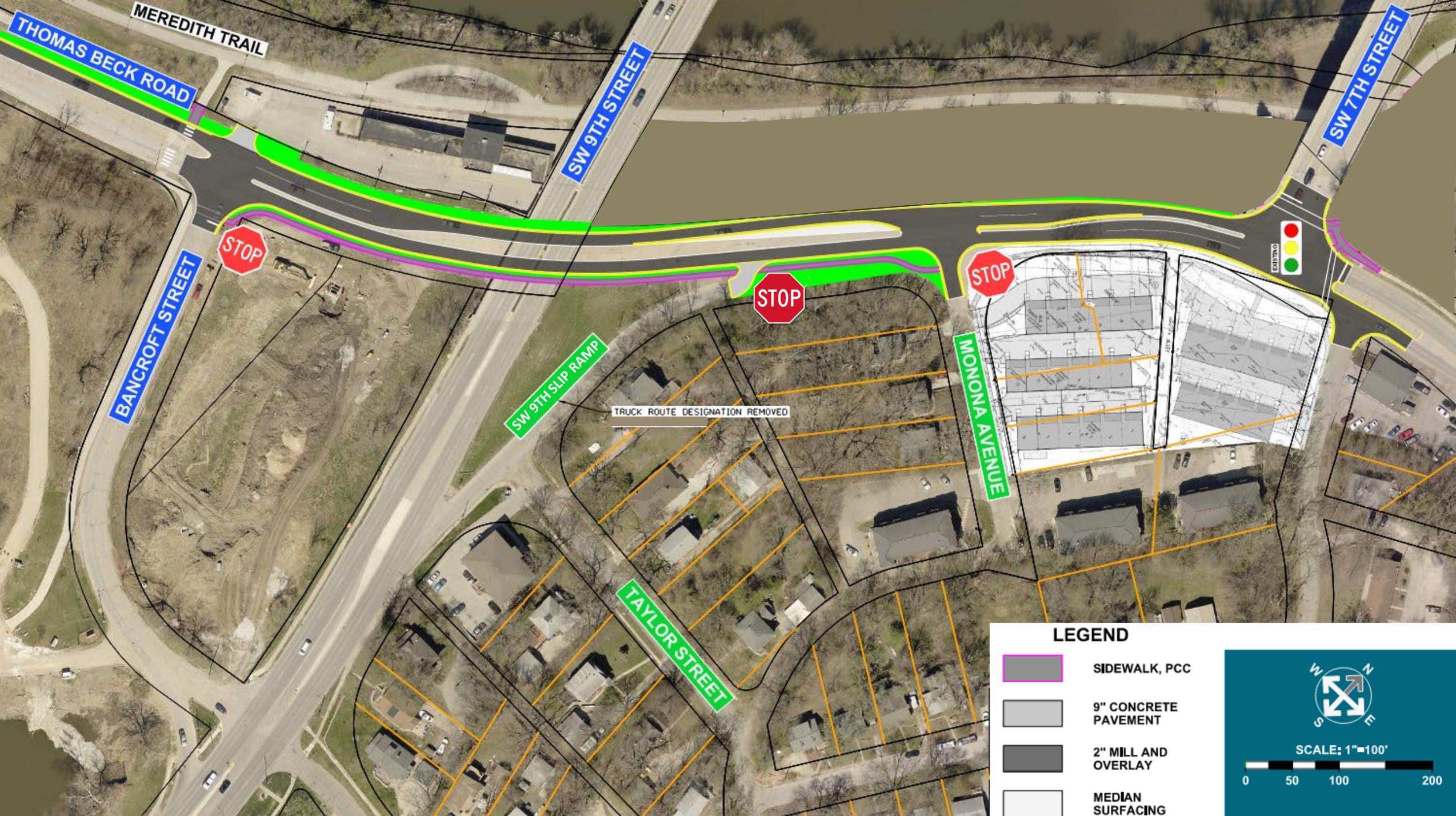
- **Project Goals**

- Resurface street
- Reduce 2 block stretch of 5-lanes down to 3-lanes
- Construct 5' sidewalk on south side to connect SW 7th to MacRae Park Trail Spur/Meredith Trail

- **SW 9th Corridor Study is underway**

- Completed first round of stakeholder meetings in December
- 2 more rounds of stakeholder meetings planned throughout the process
- Council Check-in followed by Public Open House planned for this summer





THOMAS BECK ROAD

MEREDITH TRAIL

SW 9TH STREET

SW 7TH STREET

BANCROFT STREET

STOP

STOP

STOP

EXISTING
RED
YELLOW
GREEN

SW 9TH SLIP RAMP

TRUCK ROUTE DESIGNATION REMOVED

MONONA AVENUE

TAYLOR STREET

LEGEND

-  SIDEWALK, PCC
-  9" CONCRETE PAVEMENT
-  2" MILL AND OVERLAY
-  MEDIAN SURFACING

W N
S E

SCALE: 1"=100'

0 50 100 200

Next Steps

- January 17/18, 2024 Council Check-In
- January 30, 2024 Presented fact sheets on proposed project at CSSNA Meeting
- February 13, 2024 Transportation Safety Committee Meeting
- Underway Design
- April 2024 Bid Letting
- May – December 2024 Construction

QUESTIONS?

Committee Action

Staff recommends the approval of the recommended improvements proposed with the Thomas Beck Road Improvement Project.

Proposed Resolution

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee recently approved the city's Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero was designed on the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities and that system designers and policymakers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel; and

WHEREAS, a compromise plan presented by the DART Board of Commissioners can preserve DART's essential services and prevent additional hardships for our neighbors who rely on DART Transit services for their daily transportation needs, especially low-income riders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Safety Committee of Des Moines that membership:

Article 1. Recommends Des Moines City Council authorize an increase in the franchise fee to the full 2.5% permitted by Iowa law to support DART services.

ADOPTED ON THIS 13th of February, 2024.

ITEM #2: Update on Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan

BACKGROUND

This is an update on recent activities and anticipated next steps regarding the City's Transportation Safety Action Plan.

Recent Activities and Updates

1. The City's application was not selected in the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program. Staff received a debrief on the city's application in January and anticipates that the USDOT will announce details on the 3rd cycle of funding in February 2024 with submittals due 90 days afterwards. City staff plans to submit another application.
2. The City Council approved the second consideration of the Ordinance that would expand the Transportation Safety Committee to 12 members. The additional individuals would represent the Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Transportation. After the third consideration of the ordinance is approved by the City Council, their names of the representatives will be submitted to the City Council for confirmation.
3. Iowa DOT and Iowa State University have enhanced the Crash Analysis Tool to include summaries of data, known as dashboards. City staff will be contacting Iowa DOT to develop an interface and link to this information and the city's data summary dashboard.
4. The Des Moines Area MPO is starting the development of a traffic safety action plan for the Des Moines metro area. The City of Des Moines is a project area and will have the data for its High Injury Network updated through this effort.
5. City staff has continued to work on implementation steps identified in the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. These steps include several designated as transformative. These transformative action steps would:
 - Establish a permanent, dedicated funding source for Vision Zero implementation and coordination. **[BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED]**
 - Establish a city staff position beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to coordinate Action Plan activities. **[BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED]**
 - Increase operations funding for long-term maintenance of street improvements. **[BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED]**
 - Create a CIP project sheet for the implementation of low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety at locations throughout the City. **[BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED]**
 - Incorporate Safe Streets Approach practices and Vision Zero principles in projects as they arise in CIP. **[IN PROCESS]**
 - Revise the City's Vision Zero web pages to include a dashboard with project and program updates, progress on actions, access to traffic crash data and program metrics and program successes. **[IN PROCESS]**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information only. No action required.