

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
West Des Moines City Hall Training Room
August 31, 2015

Attending:

Council Member – Rick Messerschmidt	Traffic Engineer – Jim Dickinson
Council Member – Kevin Trevillyan	Principal Engineer – Jason Schlickbernd
City Manager – Tom Hadden	Principal Engineer – Ben McAlister
Finance Director – Tim Stiles	Traffic Engineer – Eric Petersen
Assistant City Attorney – Greta Truman	Communications Specialist – Lucinda Stephenson
City Engineer – Duane Wittstock	Guest Dave Moermond – HR Green

Meeting called to order at 11:31 am.

1. Valley Junction Alley Survey

Issue Summary:

Dave Moermond, representative from HR Green, was in attendance to provide results of a survey for alley improvements that was recently conducted of the remaining areas in Valley Junction to determine interest level. The survey was sent to property owners in the 500 and 600 block as well as remaining properties that have not had any alley improvements in the 700 and 800 blocks. Mr. Moermond provided a handout of the area summarizing the responses of property owners (Item 1). The red properties indicate a negative response and the green properties indicate a positive response. Mr. Moermond explained that some of the responses were slightly mixed in that some of the negative and positive responses were not significantly strong. Staff responded to questions from the PWCC about the type of alley improvements done on previous areas in Valley Junction.

Staff is seeking a recommendation from the PWCC on how to proceed in the areas surveyed. If the recommendation is to move forward then staff would initiate a design phase and hold neighborhood meetings to inform property owners of the impact for alley improvements. Staff informed the PWCC that current funding is only available for the next hundred block, which would be the 500 block of alleys. Staff recommends moving forward with preliminary designs for alley improvements in the 500 block from 1st Street to 10th Street. Staff would then hold neighborhood meetings to inform property owners of potential impact to their properties for the improvements and then report back their findings to the Committee.

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendation.

Update provided by Finance after the meeting: There are no current or future funds budgeted for alley restoration in Valley Junction. Due to a lack of interest in the project during FY 14-15, the funds originally budgeted for the project were redirected to other projects for FY 15-16. Moving forward with the alley improvements would require a change to the current FY 15-16 budget or waiting to include it in the FY 16-17 budget, however, funds are available for preliminary study and designs.

2. Westport Sewer Request

Issue Summary:

City Engineer Duane Wittstock reported that staff received a letter from Engineering Resource Group, Inc., representing the developer of the proposed Westport Subdivision, requesting the City to initiate construction of segment 6F of the Grand Avenue West Sewer Fee District trunk sewer (Item 2). The proposed Westport Subdivision is in the northwest section of the City where Wendover Road and Mills Civic Parkway intersect. There are still several areas near the proposed subdivision that are not yet within corporate limits of the City. The sewer would need to traverse some of these properties. Staff is seeking recommendation on whether or not to pursue construction of the Grand Avenue West Sewer Fee District. Development of the proposed subdivision requires sanitary sewer be in place. Staff recommendation is to initiate construction of the sewer to allow for the proposed subdivision development.

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendation.

3. Project Alluvion

Issue Summary:

Mr. Wittstock reported there are three subcategories regarding Project Alluvion that staff is seeking recommendations from the PWCC on. A handout was provided illustrating a comprehensive map of Project Alluvion and other projects occurring in the same area (Item 3).

First, it appears that Microsoft will be accelerating construction of Phases 3 and 4 on Project Alluvion. Microsoft has asked for permission to use City property along White Crane Road, which is just north of Highway 5, to park vehicles while construction of Phases 3 and 4 are underway. Staff does not anticipate the City requiring use of the property and recommends approving Microsoft's request.

Second, HR Green is one of the consultants working on Project Alluvion and since they have worked on several other major projects in the City, they have taken the lead in coordinating work with the other consultants on other projects in the area. Staff has relied heavily on HR Green for these projects. In addition, HR Green has also coordinated with ISU on the concrete testing and research being conducted by the City. HR Green is requesting increasing the maximum fee ceiling by \$120,000 for their consultation services. Payment for the additional fees would be funded by TIF and would be an amendment to the current contract with HR Green. Staff recommends approval of the additional consultation fees for HR Green's work.

Third, Microsoft is currently using construction access off of South 8th Street for employee access, which accommodates between 200-300 employees each day. Elder Corporation is under contract to pave South 8th Street to Pine Avenue and Pine Avenue to the west; CTI is under contract to pave South 8th Street south from White Crane Road. Microsoft is requesting additional funds to incorporate changes to their site so they can move their access driveway to accommodate employees from South 8th Street to Pine Avenue. The requested additional funds are not to exceed \$277,000 to make improvements internal to their site to allow the workers to utilize the Pine Avenue access. The funds for this request would come out of urban renewal funding. Staff recommends approval of the additional funds.

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendation on all three subcategories regarding Project Alluvion.

4. **Snow Removal Services Contract** – *Deferred to a future meeting*

5. **50th Street & Mills Civic Parkway Intersection Safety Improvements**

Issue Summary:

Principal Engineer Eric Petersen reported that staff has seen some crash issues at the intersection of S. 50th Street and Mills Civic Parkway over the last few years. There is heavy traffic eastbound turning north onto S. 50th Street at this intersection, especially during the afternoon hours with approximately 300 vehicles per hour. The intersection has the potential for construction of dual eastbound left-turn lanes as a future project but with the number of crashes over the last seven years, staff recommends improvements in the interim. Mr. Petersen presented information outlining the crash history, contributing factors, and potential safety improvements at the intersection (Item 5).

Mr. Petersen explained the biggest contributing factor to the number of crashes is the amount of negative offset, or width of the median, which is currently 18'. The amount of offset limits the sight distance of the drivers and increases the distance/time for a driver to turn through the intersection. The recommendation for a negative offset is no more than 6-8'. Staff explained the pros and cons of the various potential safety improvements and provided their recommendation of narrowing the existing raised median on the west leg in order to improve visibility for left-turning traffic. Also, this would set up the intersection for dual left-turn lanes in the future. HR Green is working on a design for the widening project of 50th Street north of Mills Civic Parkway which will commence in 2016. Staff recommends the intersection improvements for S. 50th Street and Mills Civic Parkway be done as part of the 50th Street widening project since the eastbound left-turn lane and north leg of 50th Street would be closed to traffic during that project.

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendation.

6. **Review of Public Works Items for Council Meeting** (September 8, 2015)

A. **Order Construction**

- i. Dixie Acres Sanitary Sewer (*Tentative*) – Mr. Wittstock reported that staff received a letter from Veenstra & Kimm stating the bid prices may be significantly higher than the original estimated costs due to a shortage of underground contractors.
- ii. Public Safety Station 17 HVAC Improvements
- iii. 2015 City Wide Energy Savings

B. **Award Contract**

- i. 2015 Sidewalk Improvement Program Phase I
- ii. Maffitt Lake Road Pedestrian Underpass

C. **Accept Work** – Ashworth Road Low Pressure Sewer

D. **Approval of Professional Services Agreement** – Universal Field Services, Inc.

- E. Resolution – Approval of Grant Application - Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) - Traffic Adaptive Signal Controls

Direction: The PWCC concurs with staff recommendations on the Council agenda items.

7. **Staff Updates**

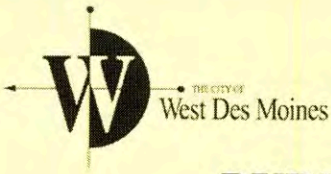
A. Disposal of City Property – Veterans Parkway

Staff has been approached by residents in the vicinity of Veterans Parkway and Browns Woods Park about the disposal of surplus City ROW. The City purchased ROW from Grubb's to construct Veterans Parkway and sections of Browns Woods Drive. The ROW surrounding this intersection is no longer required by the City. Staff is seeking a recommendation from the PWCC if the City wishes to dispose of the property and if so, on how to proceed with offering the City ROW to property owners. Discussion included how disposal of City property has occurred in the past and whether or not to continue that practice or if the property should be split into separate parcels and sold back to property owners.

Direction: The PWCC recommends that staff start the process to dispose of the property and not subdivide any of the existing parcels prior to disposal. Staff will obtain an appraisal on the property and report back to the PWCC at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm. The next Public Works City Council Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2015. Copies of handouts are available at Public Works upon request.

A recording was made. Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Pinegar, Secretary.



PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

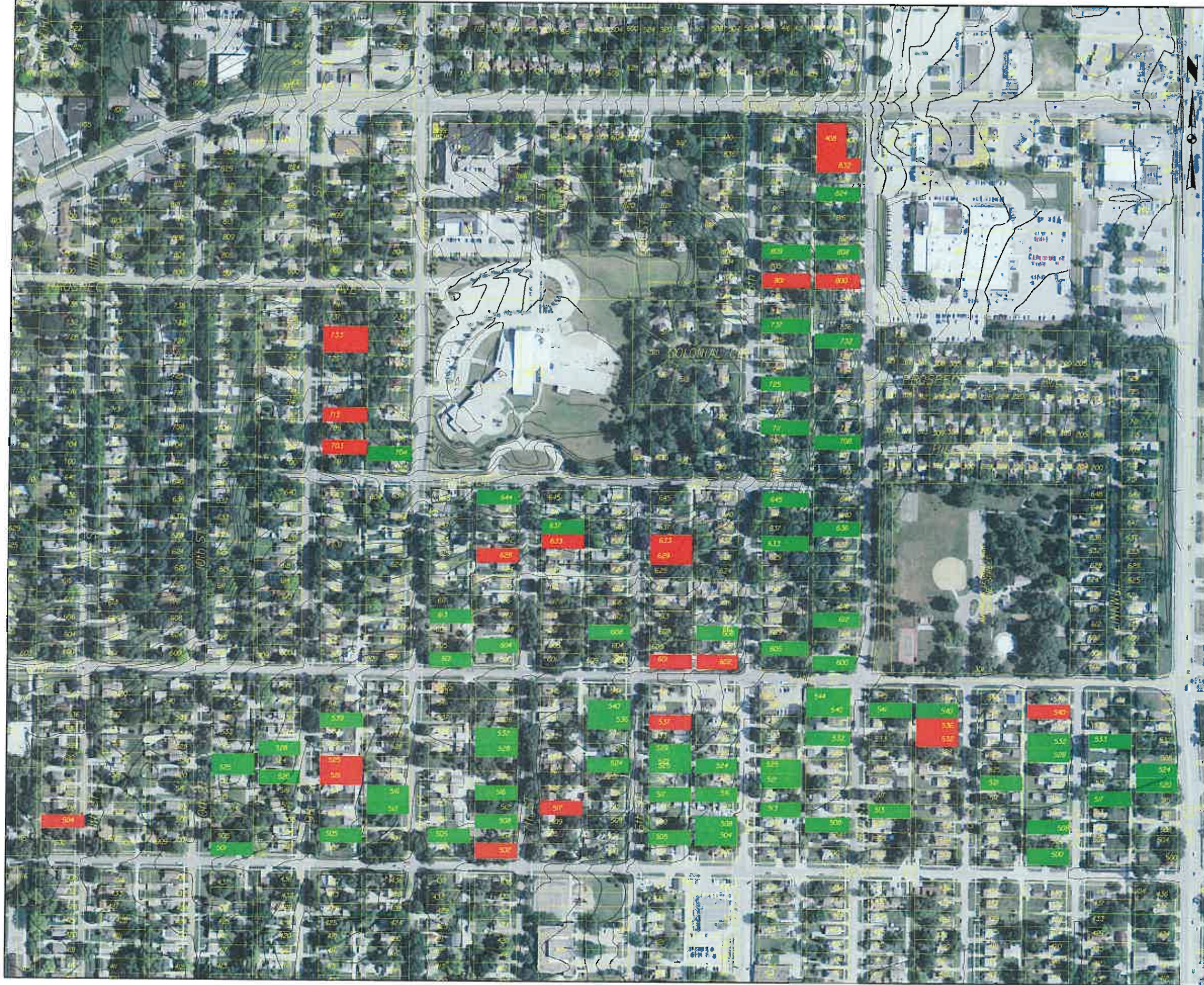
Monday, August 31, 2015 – 11:30 AM

Location: West Des Moines City Hall – Training Room
4200 Mills Civic Parkway

1. Valley Junction Alley Survey (DCW/HR Green)
2. Westport Sewer Request (DCW)
3. Alluvion (DCW)
4. Snow Removal Services Contract – *Deferred to a future meeting*
5. 50th Street & Mills Civic Pkwy Intersection Safety Improvements (ERP)
6. Review of Public Works Items for Council Meeting (September 8, 2015)
 - A. Order Construction
 - i. Dixie Acres Sanitary Sewer (JMS)
 - ii. Public Safety Station 17 HVAC Improvements
 - B. Award Contract
 - i. 2015 Sidewalk Improvement Program Phase I
 - ii. Maffitt Lake Road Pedestrian Underpass
 - C. Accept Work – Ashworth Road Low Pressure Sewer
 - D. Resolution – Approval of Grant Application - Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) - Traffic Adaptive Signal Controls (JVD)
7. Staff Updates
 - A. Disposal of City Property – Veterans Parkway (DCW)
8. Other Matters

This agenda is created for planning purposes and is subject to change.

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by Sub-committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the West Des Moines City Council.



VALLEY JUNCTION ALLEYS
 PROPERTY OWNER SURVEY RESULTS
 PHASE V, VI, VII, VIII
 WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

SURVEY RESPONSES
 POSITIVE RESPONSE
 NEGATIVE RESPONSE
 NO RESPONSE

ERG
ENGINEERING RESOURCE GROUP, INC.

ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

PH. 515 / 288-4823 • FAX 515 / 288-3860 • Email: erg@ergcorp.com

August 25, 2015

Mr. Duane Wittstock, P.E.
City Engineer
City of West Des Moines
4200 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265

RE: Westport Subdivision

Dear Mr. Wittstock:

On behalf of the developer of the proposed Westport Subdivision, we ask that the segment of trunk sewer from the existing WRA sewer at Sugar Creek and Mills Civic Parkway be constructed westerly to "V" Court.


We understand this project will be designed and constructed by the City of West Des Moines. We also understand the developer will be responsible for paying the connection fees required in the Grand Avenue West Sewer District.

The developer intends to construct the first phase of the subdivision in the spring of 2015.

Please call with any questions.

Sincerely,

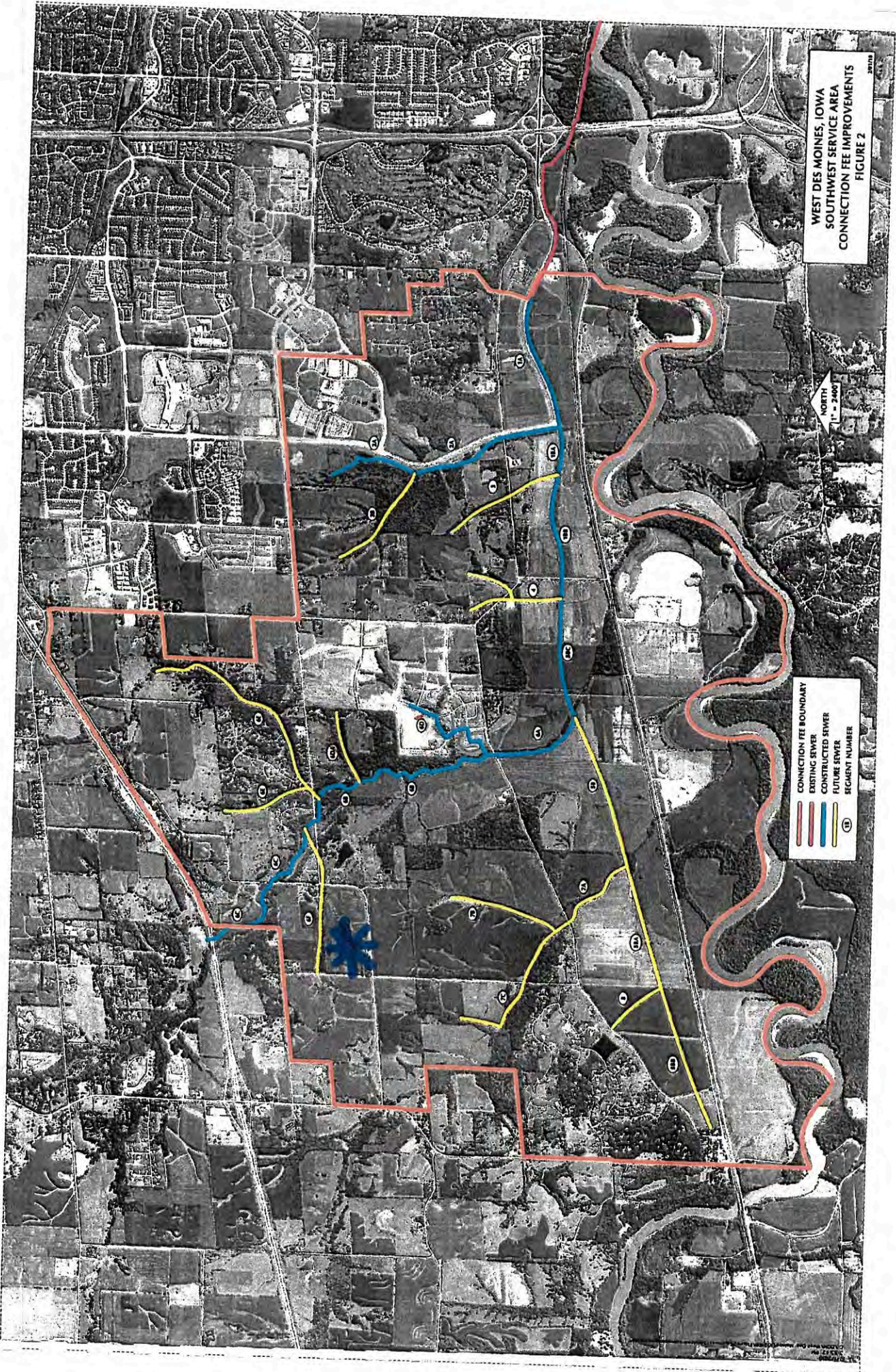
ENGINEERING RESOURCE GROUP, INC.

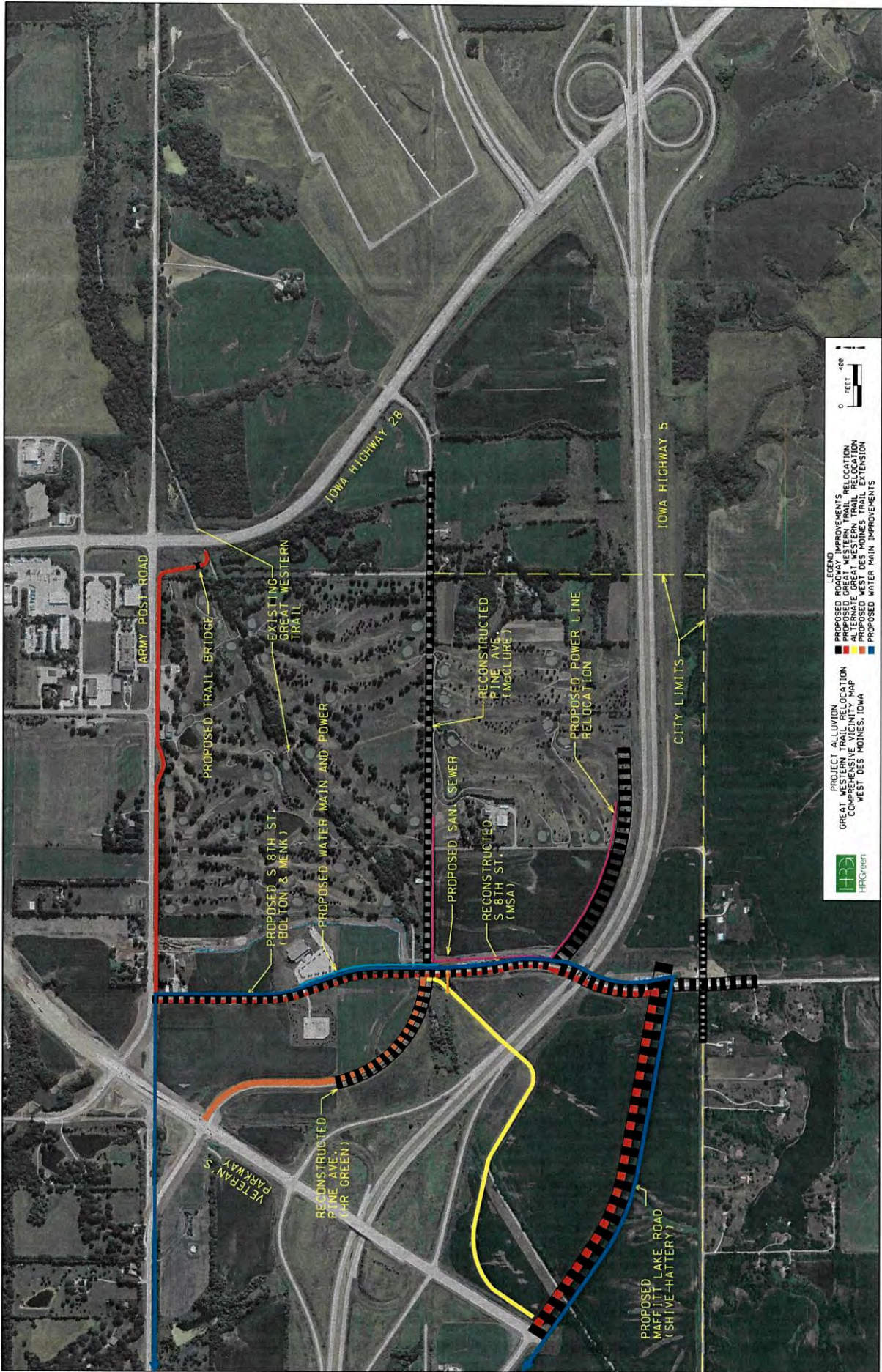


Doug Saltsgaver, P.E.
President

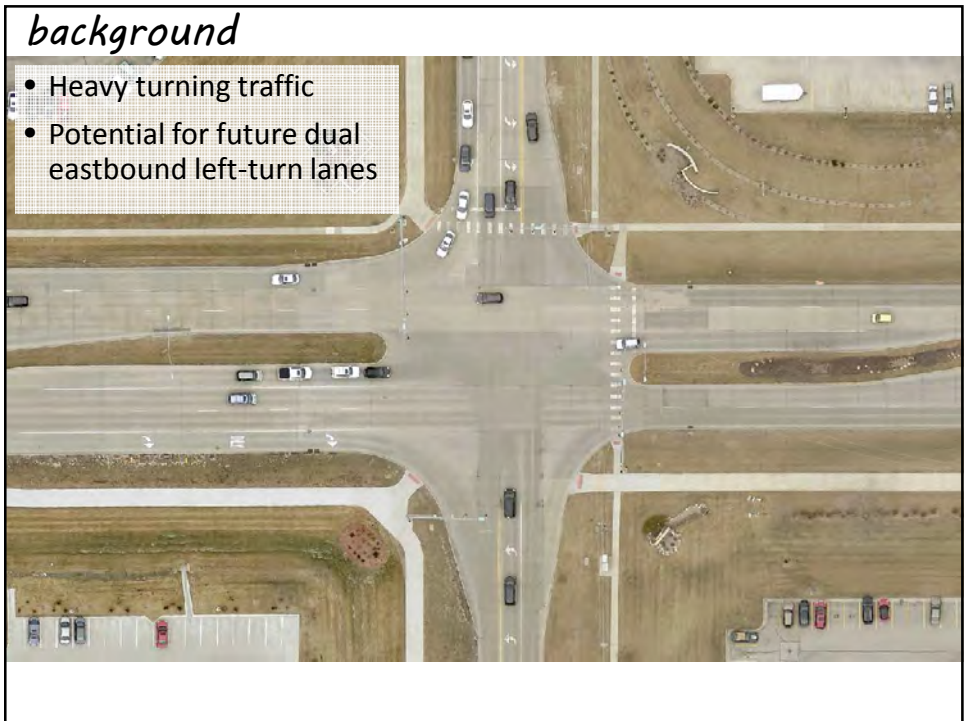
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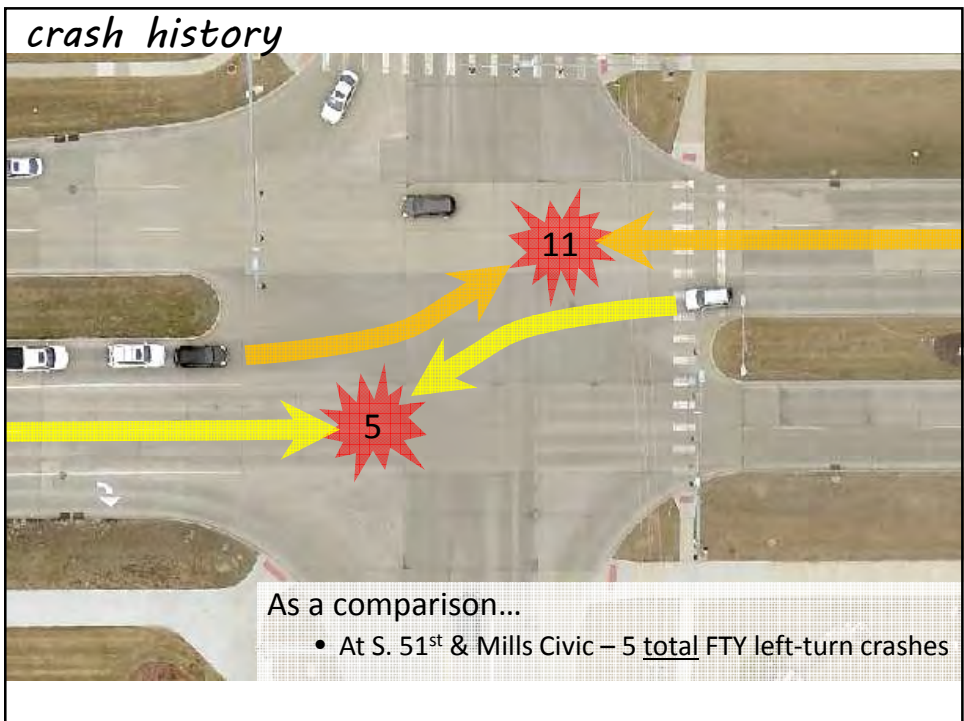
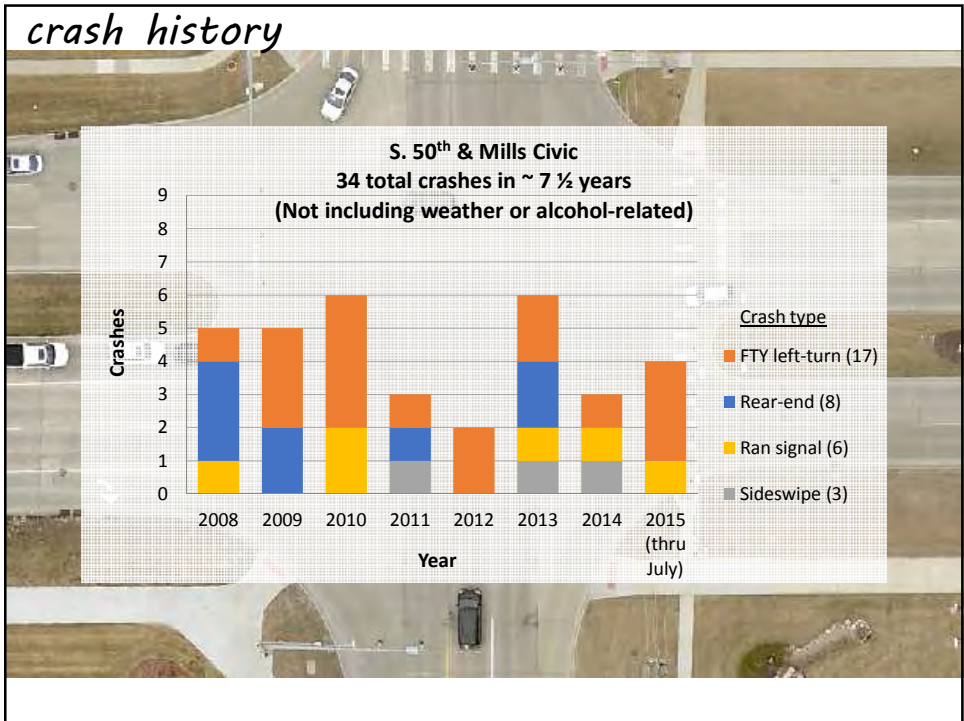
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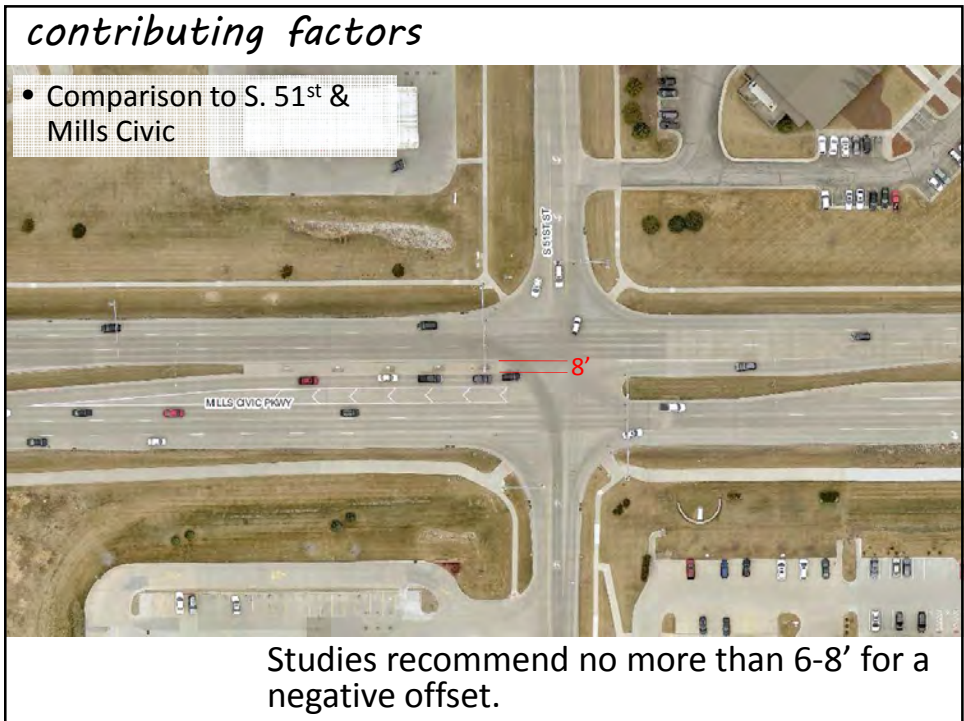
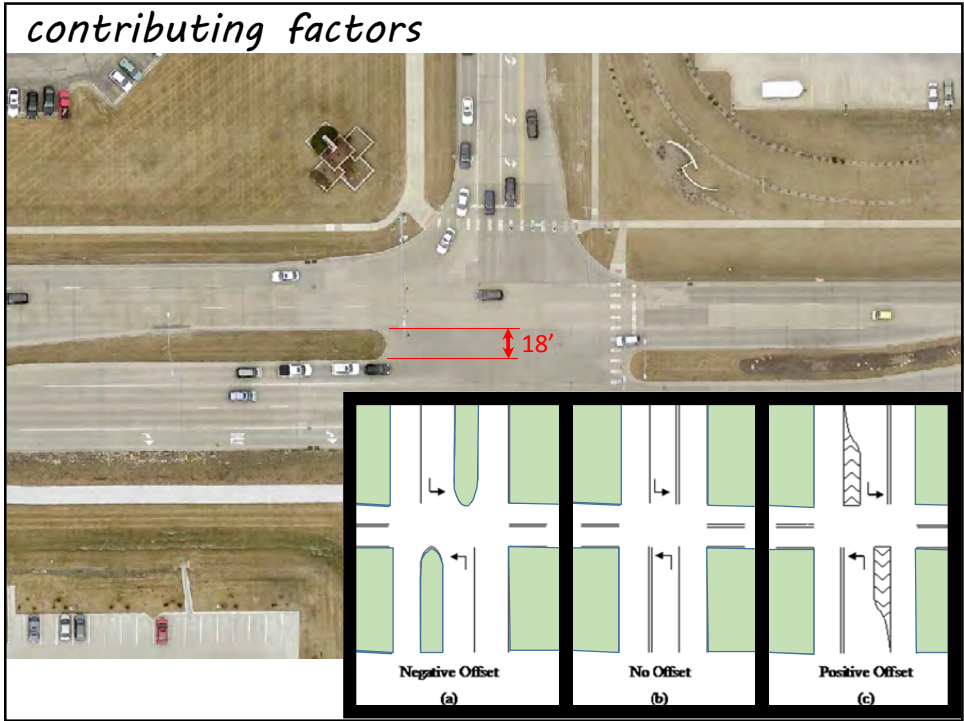




REVISED: 11/15/2014

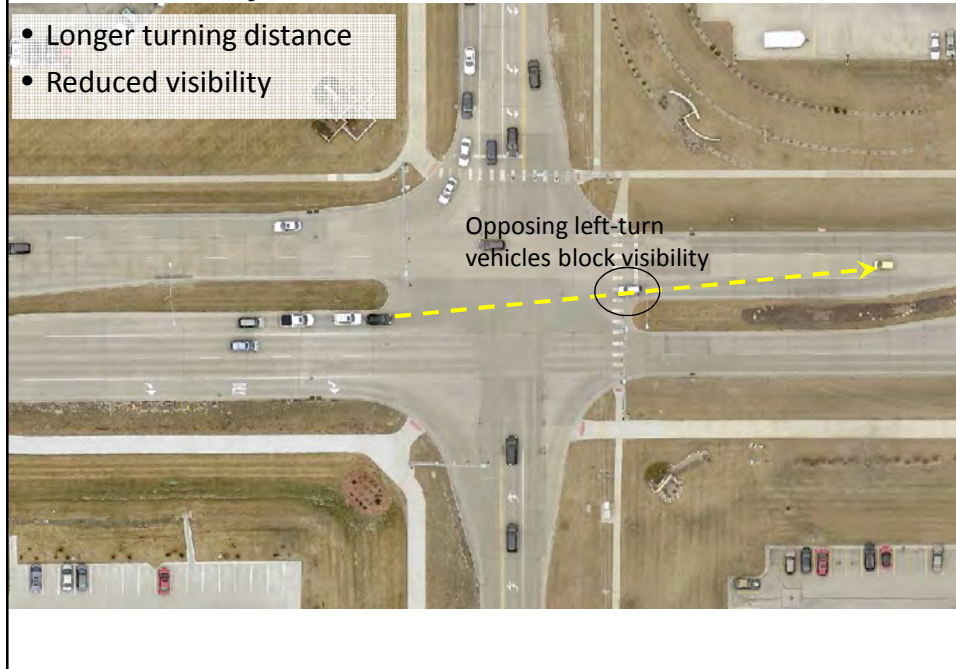






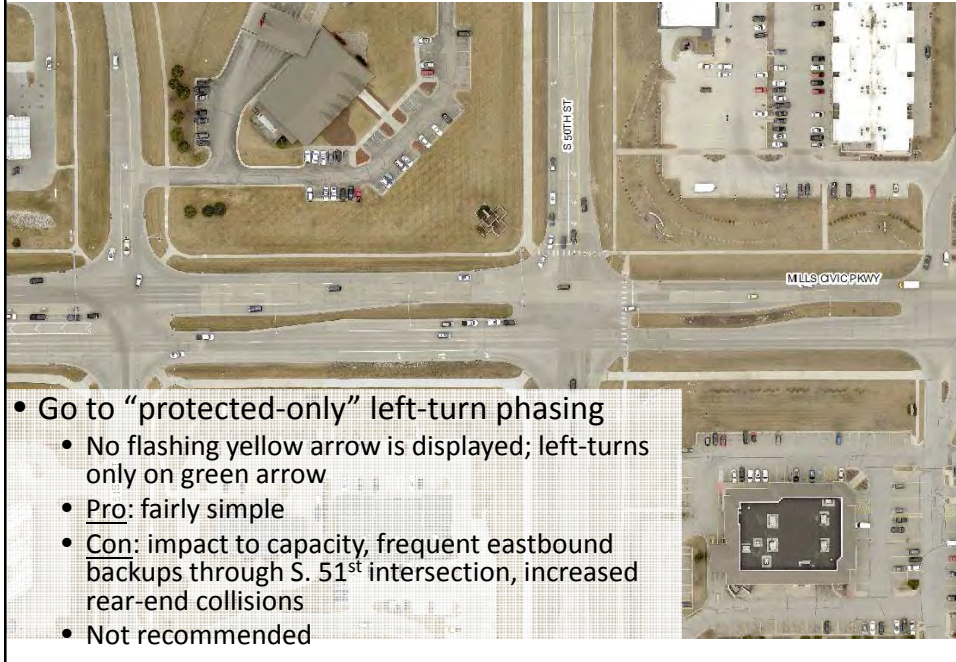
contributing factors

- Longer turning distance
- Reduced visibility

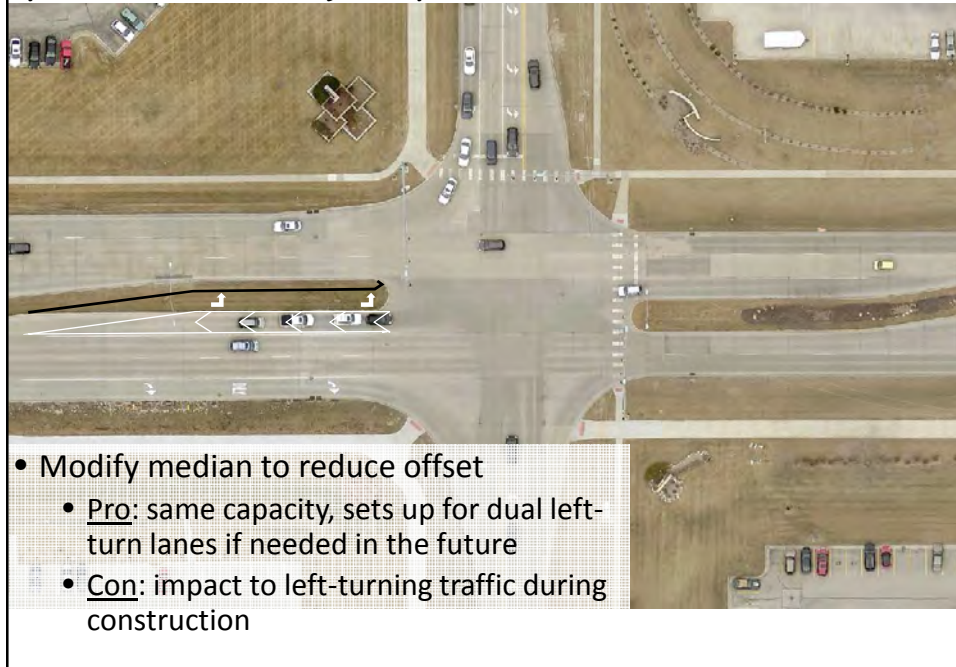


potential safety improvements

- Go to “protected-only” left-turn phasing
 - No flashing yellow arrow is displayed; left-turns only on green arrow
 - Pro: fairly simple
 - Con: impact to capacity, frequent eastbound backups through S. 51st intersection, increased rear-end collisions
 - Not recommended



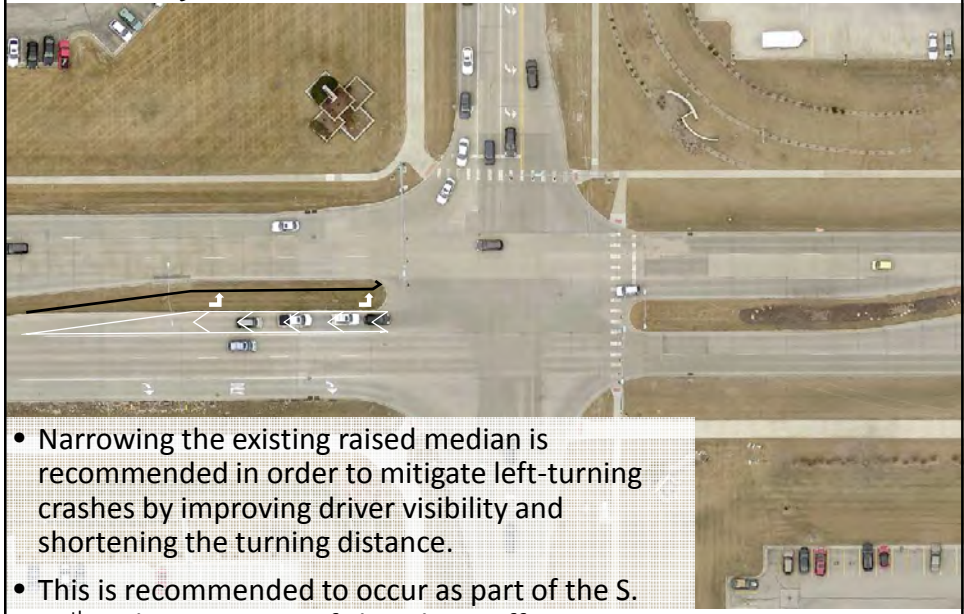
potential safety improvements



recommended timing




summary

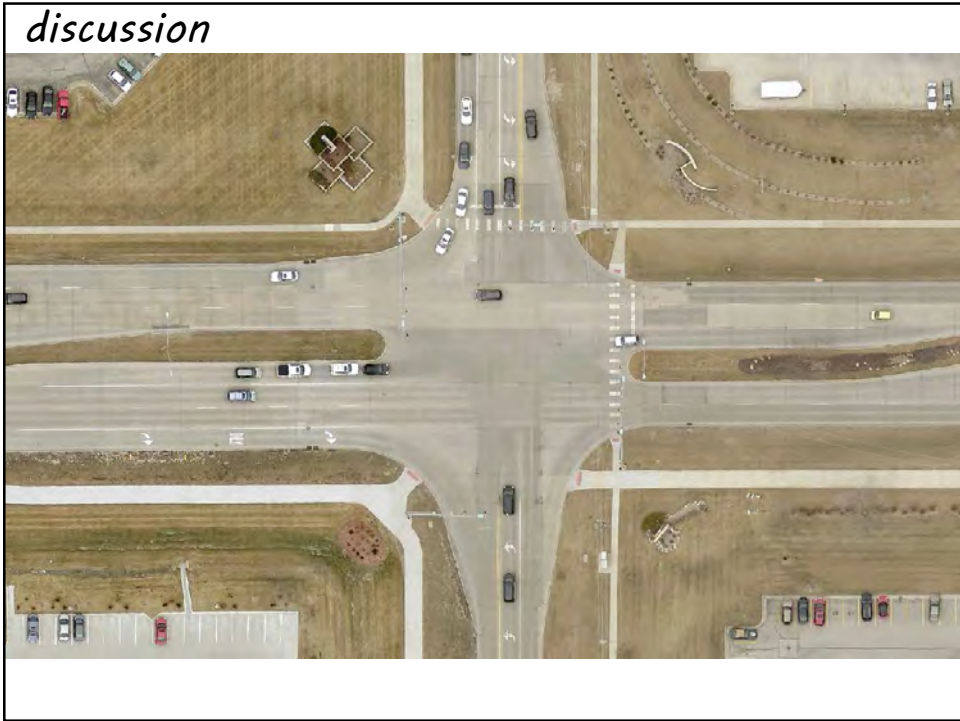


- Narrowing the existing raised median is recommended in order to mitigate left-turning crashes by improving driver visibility and shortening the turning distance.
- This is recommended to occur as part of the S. 50th widening project if closed to traffic.

summary



- If crash issues continue after this modification, a future project could entail narrowing the median on the east side to further improve visibility (achieving a positive offset).



Pinegar, Kimberly

From: West Des Moines, IA <webmaster@wdm.iowa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:05 PM
To: Pinegar, Kimberly
Subject: West Des Moines, IA: Public Works Council Committee Meeting

Public Works Council Committee Meeting

- **Date:** 08/31/2015 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **Location:** West Des Moines City Hall - Training Room
[4200 Mills Civic Parkway](#)
[West Des Moines, Iowa 50265](#)
- **Agenda:** [8.31.15 PWCC Agenda](#)

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