Agenda for the Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 8, 2022, in the Board Room at the Municipal Service Center, 2nd Floor, 1551 E Martin Luther King Jr Parkway.

Transportation Safety Committee Rules and Procedures

1. The Transportation Safety Committee is an advisory body to the City Council.
2. Staff will be given time to present the background on each item.
3. Guests are then allowed to speak, with each speaker allowed a maximum of 5 minutes.
4. All comments are to be germane to the issue under consideration and speakers are to maintain a courteous manner.
5. The audio of this meeting will be recorded.

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of February Minutes
2. Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

1. Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study
2. Transportation Safety Committee Overview – Topic #2 Committee’s Role in the CIP Process
3. Other New Business

ADJOURNMENT
**ITEM #1:** Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1998, the Southwest Diagonal Corridor Study recommended the alignment of the Southwest Connector. The Southwest Connector was proposed to be a five-lane roadway with landscaped median that ran from SW 7th Street diagonally across the southwest portion of Des Moines to SW 63rd Street at SW McKinley Avenue. The study recommended this new roadway be built to serve a planned airport terminal on the west side of the airport and anticipated traffic volume increases on Park Avenue and Fleur Drive. Since the 1998 study, the Des Moines Airport Authority completed a Terminal Area Concept Plan which proposes a new terminal complex along Fleur Drive instead of on the west side of the airport. Additionally, traffic volumes on Park Avenue and Fleur Drive have not grown as projected in the study. In 2018 the MPO removed the Southwest Connector from the Long Range Transportation Plan.

In 2020, the City initiated the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study to determine what roadway network improvements and/or changes would be needed after the removal of the Southwest Connector project. The area for this study is shown below:
The goals of the study were to:

1. Establish a regional, multimodal transportation infrastructure development strategy.
2. Improve network reliability, efficiency, and safety for all modes as demand increases.
3. Accommodate long-term economic development opportunities in a flexible way.
4. Protect recreational and natural resources throughout the study area.

After extensive stakeholder and public engagement, the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning study was completed in February 2022. The study recommendations include 37 individual roadway, activity transportation, operational, and safety projects within the study area. In total, the recommendations from this study amount to approximately $72 million of transportation infrastructure improvements. The study recommendations are too numerous to include in this agenda item. Some highlighted study recommendations include:

- Street typology changes and new typology assignments for the streets within the study area.
- The realignment of George Flagg Parkway to connect with Bell Avenue near SW 30th Street. This project would include raising George Flagg Parkway from Park Avenue to Bell Avenue above the 100-year flood plain.
- A new roundabout intersection at George Flagg Parkway and Park Avenue included a grade separated trail crossing for the Great Western Trail.
- A new, currently unnamed, street west of the airport to support future commercial and industrial development.
- Street improvements to Thomas Beck Road to provide a safer, more efficient driver experience while also enhancing pedestrian and active transportation connectivity.

Throughout the entire study process, the project team has engaged with several area stakeholder groups and organizations. An in-person public open house was held on July 28, 2021. An overview of the project was presented at a City Council Work Session on August 9, 2021.

For this agenda item, City Staff is not asking the Transportation Safety Committee to approve the entire study and all the recommendations. City staff will take the recommended projects from this study and prioritize the projects as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Once a project is funded, it will go through the MoveDSM process and will be presented in the future to the Transportation Safety Committee as part of that process.

City staff will be asking the Transportation Safety Committee to approve the recommended street typologies within the study area. Upon approval by this committee, City staff will take this study and the recommended street typologies to the City Council for approval and adoption into the Comprehensive Plan as part of MoveDSM.

A link to the project webpage which includes the public open house materials and the final report can be found here: [https://www.dsm.city/departments/engineering-division/sw_infrastructure_study.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/engineering-division/sw_infrastructure_study.php)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of the updated Street Typologies as recommended by the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study.
ITEM #2: Transportation Safety Committee Overview--
Topic #2 – Committee’s Role in the CIP Process

BACKGROUND:

When individuals are appointed to the Transportation Safety Committee, a reference document is sent to them to help explain the purpose of the committee and its duties and responsibilities, as well typical processes and topics that the committee engages. With a high number of individuals becoming new members of the committee over the past year, we intend to present and discuss various topics each month to acquaint or refresh members with the processes, role, and work of the committee.

We would encourage each member to review the materials that they received upon their appointment to the Transportation Safety Committee so that they can identify any items that they would like to discuss or have explained in greater detail. We will try to schedule some time each meeting to take up a topic.

The second topic will continue with the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) development process and specify types of projects that will be presented to the committee for consideration and those types of projects that will be presented only for informational purposes based on the City’s Complete Streets Policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is required.