

NW 70th Avenue

City of Johnston, Iowa





NW 70TH AVENUE

JOHNSTON, IOWA

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June 8, 2005

Dear Iowa Congressional Delegation:

SUBJECT: NW 70th AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

It is with great excitement that the City of Johnston delegation returns to Washington, D.C. as part of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's 2005 26th Annual Washington, D.C. Trip. Since our last visit in June 2004, a great deal of progress has been made on the City's NW 70th Avenue reconstruction project, the following is a brief synopsis of those changes:

- The City of Johnston has completed design of Phase 1 of the project, with construction to begin in July 2005 with completion in the fall of 2006.
- The City of Johnston anticipates commencing design of Phases 2 and 3 of the project by January 2006 to allow construction to commence by the spring of 2007.
- The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has increased its funding participation by funding an additional \$1,250,000 in 2007 and \$875,000 in 2008 for various phases of the project.
- The City of Johnston requests \$7 million in federal funding (\$5.0 million in 2006, \$1 million in 2007 and \$1 million in 2008).

I encourage you to review the enclosed Executive Summary, Letters of Support, Project Maps and Cost Estimates for additional information on the NW 70th Avenue reconstruction project. The City is hopeful federal funding assistance can be made available so that we can proceed with reconstruction of this roadway, in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this project. If you have any questions, please visit with any member of the City of Johnston delegation during our visit to Washington, D.C.

Very truly yours,

Brian J. Laurenzo
Mayor of Johnston



Executive Summary

NW 70th Avenue

City of Johnston, Iowa

NW 70th Avenue has taken on a significant role in Homeland Security for the United States of America and the State of Iowa. Since the events of September 11, 2001, all traffic entering or exiting Camp Dodge has been diverted to a secured entrance on NW 70th Avenue. The road not only serves as the **only** access to Camp Dodge, but also, plays a significant role in the transportation system of Northwest Polk County:

- NW 70th Avenue was once part of the State of Iowa highway system (US Highway 44);
- NW 70th Avenue serves as a primary access to the Saylorville Lake Recreation Area, a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers project;
- NW 70th Avenue serves as a major commuter route for Northwest Polk County providing access to and from the Des Moines metropolitan area; and,
- NW 70th Avenue is one of only two east/west connectors in the City of Johnston (the other is NW 62nd Avenue).

Homeland Security and Camp Dodge

Due to the increase in traffic, the age and condition of the road, NW 70th Avenue is in need of reconstruction to meet the current and future needs of our country's Homeland Security and the regional and local traffic demands. Factors that support the immediate need for road improvements include:

- In August 2004, two soldiers being deployed to Iraq were killed in a truck rollover accident on NW 70th Avenue just west of the Camp Dodge entrance. What caused the truck to leave the roadway is unknown; however, the fatalities could have been prevented had the roadway not had such steep rural ditches.
- Camp Dodge has been heavily tasked to fight the war on terror by mobilizing forces for Operation Noble Eagle for homeland defense, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom and KFOR in Kosovo.
- Due to the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Plan, a new Armed Forces Readiness Center, a U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, and United States Marine Corp and Navy Reserve Units are planned for the Camp that would house up to 250 full time personnel and support 1,000 troops.

- Camp Dodge has been approved as an equipment rebuild site to repair battle damaged vehicles and weapons systems. This unit will consist of 200 full time soldiers and be operational in June 2005. This unit has the potential to double the amount of truck traffic into the Camp.
- Since September 11, 2001, Camp Dodge has processed over 6,500 Guard men and women for active duty.
- Camp Dodge was recently designated as the Regional Training Center for Counter-drug activities. It will serve more than 2,500 trainees per year.
- Camp Dodge serves an important role for Iowa communities as it is home to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.
- Camp Dodge is a growing regional training center, which currently provides training to approximately 400,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from Iowa and surrounding states on an annual basis.
- Camp Dodge hosts 140,000 civilian personnel each year for training, meetings, conferences and youth activities.
- Camp Dodge estimates that annually approximately 50,000 service, contractor and maintenance vehicles enter and exit the facilities in addition the other traffic previously discussed.
- Camp Dodge hosts a number of tenant agencies including:
 - Counter Drug Task Force
 - Iowa Law Enforcement Academy
 - Veterans Affairs Record Center
 - Regional Training Institute
 - Iowa Communications Network
 - Department of Public Safety Communications Center
 - Gold Star Museum
 - National Guard Credit Union
 - Post Exchange
 - National Maintenance Center
 - Unitech, Incorporated
 - Ordinance Training Battalion

Traffic Counts and Movement

Traffic counts taken in 1996 indicate NW 70th Avenue carried 3,700 to 5,700 vehicles per day. Traffic counts taken in 2000 indicate an increase to 8,400 to 8,600 vehicles per day. Based on the City's comprehensive planning process, traffic counts on NW 70th Avenue are estimated to increase to 11,350 by 2007, and more than double the current traffic to 19,500 by 2012.

During the floods of 1993, access to Camp Dodge from the west was cut off due to the flooding of Beaver Creek over the roadway. Personnel trying to access the Camp from the west had to travel through Granger, Iowa.

The current condition of NW 70th Avenue is inadequate for military convoy usage. The road is heavily traveled, it has inadequate shoulders and there is a high risk for accidents. The efficiency of the road is limited due to the lack of turn lanes and other improvements. Traffic flow is often interrupted as the city repairs the deteriorating road surface. The city has completed as many as 70 concrete patches in any given year.

Project Description:

The project consists of reconstructing NW 70th Avenue from NW Beaver Drive to NW 86th Street, the NW 70th Avenue interchange with Merle Hay Road and a segment of Merle Hay Road. The following is a brief description of each of the project phases:

Phase 1: Includes the removal of the NW 70th Avenue/Merle Hay Road interchange and reconstruction of the interchange to an at grade signalized intersection, reconstruction of Merle Hay Road from Northglenn Drive to NW Beaver Drive to a four-lane roadway with turn lanes, and reconstruction of NW 70th Avenue from NW Beaver Drive to just east of Northglenn Drive.

Phase 2: Includes the reconstruction of NW 70th Avenue from the Phase 1 terminus to near the Camp Dodge/Pioneer Hi-bred International, Inc. entrances to a four-lane roadway with turn lanes at Northglenn Drive.

Phase 3: Includes the reconstruction of NW 70th Avenue from the Phase 2 terminus to NW 86th Street to a four-lane roadway with turn lanes and traffic signals at the Camp Dodge/Pioneer Hi-bred International, Inc. entrance.

In June 2003, the City completed a traffic analysis study, which indicated that the traffic on NW 70th Avenue will more than double in the next ten years to more than 19,000 vehicles per day. Based on this information, it is the City's belief that a four-lane roadway from Merle Hay Road to NW 86th Street is necessary.

Project Funding and Scheduling:

The total cost of the project is approximately \$17.98 million, in order to maintain access to all properties during construction and to maintain a realistic construction schedule the project has been phased over a three-year period. The City has to date secured \$3,449,087 in Surface Transportation Program funds in Federal Fiscal Years 2005-2008, allocated by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the NW 70th Avenue/Merle Hay Road Intersection segment of the project. The table below provides a breakdown of costs by year reflecting the revised project costs:

| Year | Total Cost | Federal Request | Federal Per. | Local Share | Local Per. | MPO Share | MPO Per. |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| 2004 | \$528,080 | | 0% | \$528,080 | 100% | | 0% |
| 2005/ 2006 | \$7,160,878 | | 0% | \$4,586,791 | 64% | \$2,574,087 | 36% |
| 2007/ 2008 | \$10,279,836 | \$7,000,000* | 68% | \$2,422,836 | 24% | \$875,000 | 8% |
| Total | \$17,986,794 | \$7,000,000 | 39% | \$7,537,707 | 42% | \$3,449,087 | 19% |

*Includes \$5,000,000 from Transportation Reauthorization Bill and \$1,000,000 Appropriations in 2007 and 2008.

The NW 70th Avenue project began in Fiscal Year 2004 with design Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 of the project will be constructed over a two-year period beginning in July 2005 with completion in the fall of 2006. Phase 1 of the project includes reconstruction of the NW 70th Avenue/Merle Hay Road intersection and reconstruction of Merle Hay Road from Northglenn Drive to NW Beaver Drive. It is anticipated design of Phases 2 and 3 of the project will begin by January 2006, with construction beginning by the spring of 2007 (see attached map depicting year of construction for each segment). It is anticipated construction will take two construction seasons, to ensure uninterrupted access to Camp Dodge and Pioneer during the entire reconstruction process.

The City of Johnston has made a tremendous investment in Phase 1 of the project, relying on only local funding for the remaining phases of the project will significantly delay the completion of the total project, most likely extending the project from four years to six or more years. Typically, the City uses special assessments, to benefited property owners, as well as proceeds from General Obligation Bonds as methods of financing road improvements. A majority of NW 70th Avenue from NW 86th Street to Merle Hay Road is bordered by Camp Dodge on the north and the Pioneer Hi-Bred International Research Fields on the south. With Camp Dodge being a non-tax producing government property and the Pioneer Hi-Bred property having the ability to agriculturally defer the assessment, a significant financial burden is placed on the residents and businesses. Therefore, due to the increased importance NW 70th Avenue now has to Homeland Security, the City of Johnston is seeking financial assistance, as identified above, from the federal government to fund the improvements to NW 70th Avenue.

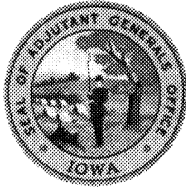
Metropolitan Support

This past year, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization again verified its support of the NW 70th Avenue reconstruction project by providing an additional \$1,250,000 to Phase 1 of the project and \$875,000 to Phase 3 of the project, bringing their total contribution of Surface Transportation Program funds for the entire project to \$3,449,087.

In addition to providing funding, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has been instrumental in supporting the project the past couple of years in many other ways. Realizing the importance of the NW 70th Avenue project the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization upgraded the Federal Functional Classification on the roadway from Collector to Minor Arterial in November of 2002. In January of 2003, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization further supported the project, by amending the Horizon Year 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan to include the NW 70th Avenue project. In addition, many other state agencies and local governments have supported the project including, Polk County, the City of Grimes, the Iowa Department of Transportation, and the Iowa National Guard (Camp Dodge).

Environmental Impacts

McClure Engineering Company, on behalf of the City, has contacted various agencies concerning the environmental impacts of the project; the following two pages discuss their findings.



HEADQUARTERS IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

Office of the Adjutant General

Camp Dodge

7700 NW Beaver Drive
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1902

JFHQ-IA-QM

4 June 2005

City of Johnston
Attn: Jim Sanders
6221 Merle Hay Road
PO Box 410
Johnston, Iowa 50131-0410

RECEIVED

JUN 6 2005

Dear Mr. Sanders,

On behalf of the Adjutant General of Iowa, I am writing to express our full support for the Northwest 70th Street improvement project.

As you are well aware, the Iowa National Guard has been heavily tasked to fight the war on terror by mobilizing forces for Operation Noble Eagle for homeland defense, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom and KFOR in Kosovo. In fact, since 11 September 2001, we have mobilized over 6,500 Guard men and women, all of which were processed at Camp Dodge for active duty. By closing the two gates on NW Beaver Drive for security purposes, all traffic into Camp Dodge must utilize NW 70th thus creating a significant increase in traffic volume.

In addition to mobilization operations, last year Camp Dodge provided training to approximately 400,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. During this same year an additional 140,000 civilian personnel used Camp Dodge for a variety of activities including training, meetings, conferences, and youth activities.

There are a number of tenant agencies permanently located on Camp Dodge. These include the Counter Drug Task force, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Veterans Affairs Records Center, Regional Training Institute, Iowa Communications Network, Department of Public Safety Communications Center, Gold Star Museum, Post Exchange, National Maintenance Training Center, Military Interactive Multimedia Center, and Ordinance Training Battalion.

In May of this year, the DOD Base Realignment and Closure plan (BRAC) for 2005 has proposed a new Armed Forces Readiness Center for Camp Dodge which will house the DOD Military Entrance Processing Station, the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, a USMC Reserve unit, USN reserve unit, the Troop Medical Clinic and additional Iowa Guard units. If approved, this \$20 million project will support an additional 1,000 troops and as many as 250 full time employees.

The U.S. Army Forces Command has also approved Camp Dodge as an equipment rebuild site to repair battle damaged vehicles and weapons systems. This program will be operational in June 2005 and will station an equipment maintenance company on Camp Dodge consisting of 200 full time soldiers. Damaged equipment from throughout the Army

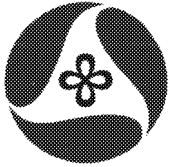
will be shipped into Camp Dodge for rebuild and repair which will probably double the volume of truck traffic on NW 70th Street.

As you can see, Camp Dodge is a busy place. With the increased volume of military and civilian traffic being routed onto NW 70th, our main concern is traffic safety. While we are not budgeted to assist with improvements to NW 70th, we would do anything we can to support the project.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



VINCENT P. REHER
COLONEL, Iowa National Guard
State Quartermaster



Iowa Department of Transportation

800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010

515-239-1111

FAX: 515-239-1639

May 23, 2005

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2005

James P. Sanders
City Administrator
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thanks for your May 16 letter requesting a statement of support from the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) for your city's efforts to obtain funding for the improvement project on NW 70th Avenue.

As indicated in previous DOT correspondence, it is appropriate that the city of Johnston seek federal assistance for this project. Due to the increased importance of NW 70th Avenue and access to Camp Dodge in connection to Homeland Security initiatives, the financial burden of the improvement should not rest with Johnston alone.

You may call on DOT staff for any aid we may provide. Dan Franklin, Office of Policy and Legislative Services at 515-239-1131, and Scott Dockstader, District 1 Engineer at 515-239-1194, will be pleased to help you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark F. Wandro".

Mark F. Wandro
Director

MFW:et

cc: Dan Franklin, Office of Policy and Legislative Services
Scott Dockstader, District 1 Engineer

THE MPO

DES MOINES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MERLE HAY CENTRE - 6200 AURORA AVENUE, SUITE 300W

URBANDALE, IOWA 50322-2866 - PHONE: (515) 334-0075 - FAX: (515) 334-0098 - WEBSITE: www.dmampo.org

June 1, 2005

The Honorable Brian Laurenzo
Mayor of Johnston
P. O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131-0410

Dear Mayor Laurenzo:

Subject: NW 70th Avenue Improvements

As the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prepares to participate with the Greater Des Moines Partnership on the Partnership's June 2005 trip to Washington, D.C., I remember how much the City of Johnston has done to secure funding for this very important metropolitan and central Iowa project.

Again this year, the Des Moines Area MPO compiled a listing of metropolitan transportation projects recognized and supported for special federal funding as part of our visit to Washington, D.C., June 8-10, 2004. Again, this year, Mayor Laurenzo, I am pleased to report that the Des Moines Area MPO included the NW 70th Avenue project in that listing of projects for discussion with Iowa's Congressional delegation and federal officials during this June 2005 trip.

The 2005 trip offers us another opportunity to work to help the City of Johnston find additional funding assistance for this significant challenge facing Camp Dodge and facing those who require effective, unencumbered access to and from Camp Dodge. We know that, since September 11, 2001, all traffic entering or exiting Camp Dodge has been diverted to a secured entrance on NW 70th Avenue. We understand that approximately 540,000 military and civilian personnel utilize Camp Dodge annually, burdening the efficiency of the roadway which is limited due to the lack of turn lanes and other improvements. We support the City of Johnston's efforts to rebuild this roadway, and to remove the Merle Hay Road grade separation and replace it with a signalized intersection. The NW 70th Avenue corridor is a very critical transportation corridor for the City of Johnston, for the Des Moines metropolitan area, and for central Iowa.

On behalf of the Des Moines Area MPO, I look forward to the NW 70th Avenue project being part of that June 2005 Washington, D.C., projects listing the Des Moines Area MPO supports for seeking special federal funding assistance for the City of Johnston's NW 70th Avenue project, and for other transportation needs of the metropolitan area and of central Iowa.

Best wishes,



Geri Huser, Chair
Des Moines Area MPO

GH:TK:lk



COUNTY OF POLK

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
111 Court Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309 / 2296
Fax No. 323-5225

RECEIVED

JUN 3 2005

May 20, 2005

Mr. Jim Sanders, City Administrator
City of Johnston
6221 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, Iowa 50131

Re: Proposed NW 70 Avenue Reconstruction Project from Merle Hay Road to
NW 86 Street.

Dear Mr. Sanders:

This letter is to assure you, Mayor Lorenzo, and the members of the Johnston City Council, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors supports your efforts to develop and fund the above-referenced project on NW 70 Avenue in Johnston.

As you know, NW 70 Avenue is the major east-west collector for the NW Polk County/City of Johnston Area. It is also the only route that now provides access to the Camp Dodge Military Installation, the headquarters of the Iowa National Guard and the State Area Readiness Command Post.

This project will improve the safety of this roadway by eliminating the rural roadway design which has difficulty accommodating the nearly 10,000 vehicles that use this road every day. The project will also reduce traffic congestion and accommodate the anticipated growth that is occurring in Johnston and west central Polk County.

This project must be also be completed so that the final phase of the NW 70 Avenue reconstruction project from NW 86 Street to IA Highway 141 can move forward.

Thank you for this attention and please contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Hockensmith, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Tom Hockens
Chair
3rd Distri
286-3116

Robert Brow
1st Distri
286-2228

E. J. Giovan
2nd Distri
286-3119

John F. Ma
4th Distri
286-3118

Angela Conn
5th Distri
286-3117

CC: All Members of Polk County Board Of Supervisors
Mike Freiling, Chief of Staff
Sue Elliott, Board Staff Assistant



101 North Harway, Grimes, Iowa 50111 515.986.3036 Fax 515.986.3846

May 24, 2005

City of Johnston
Mr. James P. Sanders
6221 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131

Dear Jim:

The City of Grimes is an active supporter of the efforts of both the City of Johnston and Polk County for the planned improvements of the NW 70th Avenue Project. Mayor Tom Armstrong, Council Member Mike Martin, Grimes Chamber and Economic Development Executive Director Aaron Chittenden and I will also be attending the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Washington D.C. trip in support of this project, as well as a potential extension of this project to include NW 70th Avenue west of Highway 141 as it then becomes IA Highway 44.


The City of Grimes has been active in the IA 44 Corridor Coalition. This Coalition was established in 2000 with the intent to advocate each community's desired improvements to IA 44 to the Iowa Department of Transportation. The Coalition has progressed and obtained support from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Congressman Boswell, Senator Harkin, the Des Moines Metropolitan Transportation Organization, as well as financial commitments from each affected community.

As NW 70th Avenue is an extension of the IA 44 Corridor, the importance of improvements to this section is even more significant due to the bordering of Camp Dodge along this extension. With the ever increasing need for Homeland Security and the nearly 540,000 military and civilian personnel utilizing Camp Dodge annually, the funding for the improvements to this section of road must be awarded immediately.

The City of Grimes is in complete support of the request from the City of Johnston in the effort to obtain assistance from the federal government to fund the improvements to NW 70th Avenue.

All of our delegation members are at your disposal. Please let us know when and where we will be needed to join in your efforts.

Very truly yours,


Kelley L. Brown
City Administrator
City of Grimes



City of
Urbandale

June 7, 2005

The Honorable Brian Laurenzo
City of Johnston
6221 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, Iowa 50131-0410

Dear Mayor Laurenzo:

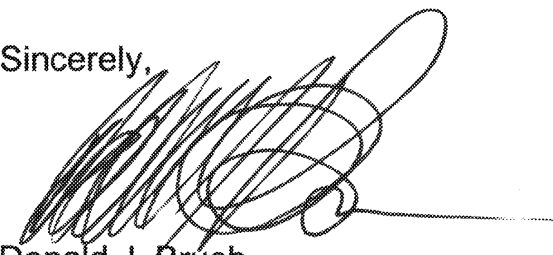
I am writing in support of the City of Johnston's request for federal assistance for the NW 70th Avenue Improvement Project.

As you know, the cities of Grimes, Johnston and Urbandale have been working with Polk County and the MPO to study the transportation system in the northwest portion of the metropolitan area. This study has primarily focused on the Highway 141, Highway 44 and I35/80 corridors adjacent to our communities. Based on this analysis, a number of improvement projects have been recommended to address traffic concerns and to encourage development. One of these projects involves the intersection of NW 70th Avenue and Highway 141.

The NW 70th Avenue corridor plays an important role in the development of our region. Since this roadway serves as the entrance to Camp Dodge, it carries a significant amount of military traffic. When these vehicles are added to the regular traffic flow, they create congestion and safety problems. The proposed improvements to NW 70th Avenue will initially address problems at Merle Hay Road. However, the later phases of the project will upgrade the roadway and create an improved access to Highway 141 and the Interstate system. For this reason, I support Johnston's plans for the NW 70th Avenue improvements.

I look forward to working with you in the implementation of a transportation plan for the northwest portion of our region. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Brush
Mayor



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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6221 MERLE HAY ROAD, P.O. Box 410
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515-278-2344 PHONE
515-278-2033 FAX

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DWILWERDING@CI.JOHNSTON.IA.US