

Memorandum

Date: January 30, 2009

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Brent Trout, City Administrator

Re: 19th Street SW Railroad Overpass and Intersection Improvements Project Update

Attached is the latest update about the 19th Street SW Railroad Overpass and Intersection Improvements Project.

Let me know if you have any questions.



Brent Trout, City Administrator

CC: Mark Rahm, City Engineer

Memorandum

To: Brent Trout, City Administrator
From: Mark A. Rahm, City Engineer
Date: 01/30/2009
Re: 19th Street SW Railroad Overpass

The construction of the 19th Street SW Overpass continues to progress through the winter months. Since the project update in October nearly all of the water and storm sewer utilities have been installed. There remains a small amount of storm sewer to make the final connections tying the system together. The remaining storm sewer work will be completed closer to the end of winter and before the major thaw.

The intersection of South Pierce Avenue and 19th Street SW was reopened on January 8, 2009 allowing traffic a route to and from 43rd Street SW. The new Iowa National Guard entrance was opened shortly afterward. The paving of South Polk Avenue on the east end of the project is completed but the temporary entrance into the I.O.O.F. will continue to be used until later this spring. The pavement widening on South Pierce Avenue did not get placed due to the change in the weather. Temporary rock was used in place of concrete so the street could be opened.

After a long delay caused by utility relocations the contractor was able to begin construction of the bridge. The bridge construction continues to move forward throughout the winter as much as weather permits. After the pouring of the cap, Pier #4 will be completed. The footings for Pier #3 are complete and excavation has begun on Pier #2 where soon piles will be driven and concrete footings formed and poured.

The project is approximately seven weeks behind schedule, with a projected completion date of November 2, 2009. While working through the numerous utility issues the contractor was able to install water and storm sewer utilities and pave Polk Avenue and the entrance into the Iowa National Guard. Even though they were able to continue there was a lot of rescheduling and jumping around the construction area to find areas to work.

All conflicts with Alliant Energy gas and electric, Qwest local, Qwest National, Paetec, and Iowa Network Services (INS) have been resolved. As mentioned in the previous update, the project area contains a massive amount of utilities as well as two railroad companies. Communication and coordination to get everyone out of the way of bridge construction was an enormous task. The contractor (Henkel Construction Company) is now asking for damages caused by the delays. I am currently working with WHKS & Co. and the Iowa Department of Transportation to review the request as proposed.

It is going to take time to sort through all of this to determine what is fair and where the responsibility lies. At this point everyone involved agrees that there were lost days for the contractor, however that number is to be determined. I only received Henkel's request last week and as previously mentioned there are many variable in this equation and each one must be carefully sorted out.

I am building a case for the City based on information I have collected over the past year along with the consultant and the IDOT. While there is a consensus that the utility companies are responsible for the damages, the contractor bears partial responsibility as well since they took no real initiative to work with the utility companies.

I will be scheduling a meeting with you and City Attorney Tom Meyer in the next couple of weeks with complete details.