

February 18, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Pamela Cooksey, City of Des Moines, [pscooksey@dmgov.org](mailto:pscooksey@dmgov.org), (515) 283-4920

**City to present Final EIS for Southeast Connector**

Des Moines, Iowa – The City of Des Moines is providing the opportunity for the public to review and provide feedback on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Southeast (SE) Connector roadway.

The SE Connector would create a multi-lane arterial road connection from Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Parkway at SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street to the Vandalia Road/U.S. 65 Bypass interchange. The roadway would provide a safe, direct and effective route to and from downtown Des Moines. The speed limit would be 35 to 40 miles per hour. The proposed improvements would connect with the construction that is now underway on MLK Jr. Parkway between SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the bridge over the Des Moines River that is being constructed this year.

The Project Team developed several alternatives to address the issues and opportunities within the corridor. The alternatives were put through a screening process to determine reasonable alternatives and a preferred alternative. The process produced two corridor alignments that were carried forward into the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was presented at a public hearing on Feb. 18, 2009, and during a public comment period from January 16, 2009 to March 15, 2009. The Final EIS provides an update on minor project changes

since the Draft EIS and also responds to questions and comments raised by the public and environmental agencies during the public comment period. The Yellow Alternative remains the City of Des Moines' preferred alignment for the SE Connector as described in the Final EIS. The final alternative will be chosen in a Record of Decision from the Federal Highway Administration after the comment period on the Final EIS. This will conclude the environmental study process for the project.

Citizens may mail, fax or e-mail their comments to: City of Des Moines, c/o Pamela Cooksey, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, IA 50309; Fax: (515) 283-4112; or e-mail: [pscooksey@dmgov.org](mailto:pscooksey@dmgov.org). Comments must be postmarked, faxed or e-mailed on or before March 26, 2010. For more information about the Final EIS, write to the above address or call (515) 283-4920.

Copies of the Final EIS are available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

- Chesterfield Community Center, 2501 Maury St., Des Moines, IA, 50317
- Des Moines Public Library, Central Branch, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309
- City of Des Moines, Office of the City Engineer, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, IA 50309
- City of Pleasant Hill, 5160 Maple Drive, Suite A, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
- Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Location and Environment, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010
- Iowa Department of Transportation, District 1 Office, 1020 S. 4th St., Ames, IA, 50010

After a Record of Decision is received, the following major actions are anticipated to take place over several years as funding for the project is identified:

- Development of final design drawings for construction

- Acquisition of needed right-of-way properties for the project
- Completion of any required permits for the project
- Construction of the project in stages, likely over a number of years

Additional information about the project is available at

[www.seconnector.com](http://www.seconnector.com) .

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