

**THE CITY OF
DES MOINES**

**SOUTHEAST
CONNECTOR**

MLK

US65

**The City of Des Moines
and SE Connector project
team invites you to
attend a public
information open house:**

Tuesday,

October 18, 2005

5 to 7 p.m.

**Chesterfield Community
Center**

**2501 Maury Street
Des Moines, Iowa**

**Take advantage of
the opportunity to
learn more about
the project and speak
directly with project
representatives.**

The City of Des Moines' Southeast Connector

The Southeast (SE) Connector is an arterial roadway construction project being developed by the City of Des Moines. The purpose of the project is to construct a major, multi-lane roadway connecting the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway (MLK) at S.W. 2nd Street to the U.S. 65 bypass.

The SE Connector improvements will fulfill significant and far-reaching goals for the City of Des Moines and the greater metropolitan area. Development of the SE Connector will greatly benefit the City's overall transportation system.

What Is Happening?

The SE Connector Project consists of two phases. Each phase (also referred to as Phase I and Phase II) has different stages that will proceed as funding becomes available. The SE Connector phases and stages include:

SE Connector Phase I (S.W. 2nd Street to S.E. 15th Street)

- Final design and construction of roadway improvements between S.W. 2nd Street and S.E. 6th Street, including a new bridge over the Des Moines River
- Final design and construction of roadway improvements between S.E. 6th Street and S.E. 15th Street

SE Connector Phase II (S.E. 15th Street to U.S. 65)

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Preliminary design
- Final design and construction as determined

Phase I improvements were originally identified and studied, and received environmental clearance during the MLK Parkway EIS process in the 1980s. The improvements are now ready for design and construction.

Phase II of the SE Connector is beginning the process of selecting an alternative route and receiving environmental approval. The design and construction stages cannot begin until the process has run its course and a preferred alternative has been approved.

Who's Involved?

Kirkham Michael (KM) and Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) will lead a project team of seven additional firms for the City of Des Moines SE Connector project providing a premiere suite of transportation planning, engineering and environmental analysis services.

The project team will build on previous work of the Southeast Diagonal Corridor – Project Location and Major Investment Study completed in 1999. The team will work closely with the City of Des Moines, Iowa Department of Transportation (IaDOT), the Des Moines City Council and local agencies and resources to design and provide construction phase services for the Southeast (SE) Connector project.

Community input is a valuable part of this process. A variety of communication channels has been employed to keep stakeholders informed and involved. If you are unable to attend the October meeting, contact us to learn about future meetings.

Southeast Connector
P.O. Box 8368 • Des Moines, IA. 50301
phone: 1-800-797-0565 • email: info@seconnector.com • Web: www.seconnector.com

Questions and comments related to the project can be submitted electronically, by phone or by mail and will be documented and responded to by a project team member.

Making the Connection...

Bridge Construction Design

SE Connector project team members will examine two different bridge types. City officials will take into account existing structural elements, future driving projections, public comments and funding opportunities when determining the best bridge for the metropolitan area.

One element of the new bridge that will remain consistent with both designs is a pedestrian trail accommodation.

Roadway Design

The SE Connector includes construction of a major arterial roadway that will

begin at the intersection of MLK Parkway and S.W. 2nd Street, and extend east across the Des Moines River, along the southern edge of Raccoon Street to a point near S.E. 9th Street, then curve to the south to meet Scott Street near S.E. 14th Street. The project will continue below the 14th Street Viaduct to the east transitioning into Scott Street near S.E. 15th Court.

The City of Des Moines staff and project team are working to assure that details of the design are compatible with expectations, plans and responses to the improvements already in place on MLK Parkway. The existing design is nearly 10

years old, which means much of the design work that was completed is still viable and will be referenced in the current design study and future construction plans.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The project team will assess potential environmental impacts related to any SE Connector improvements between S.E. 15th and U.S. 65. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires this type of assessment for any transportation improvement project that will use federal funds and/or federal permits for construction. The NEPA process helps agencies and the public make well informed decisions about transportation investments in their community. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents the NEPA decision-making

process and answers the following basic questions:

- What is the purpose and need for the improvement?
- How would the proposed improvement function?
- How might improvements impact the natural environment?
- How might improvements impact the cultural and social environment?
- Which alternative best meets the purpose and need while minimizing impacts?

The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for overseeing the EIS process and issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) approving the selected alternative. This approval is necessary for a project to proceed into design, right of way acquisition and construction.



Inside: Your Invitation to an Open House – October 18

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