



# CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** April 9, 2014

**TO:** Tom Markus, City Manager

**FROM:** Rick Fosse, Public Works Director

**RE:** **Iowa City Gateway Project**  
**Follow-up to April 1, 2014 Work Session and Formal Meeting**

On April 1, 2014, City Council passed a resolution establishing the design elements for the Iowa City Gateway Project that are necessary for completion of the Concept Statement. We anticipate submittal of the Concept Statement to the Iowa DOT during the week of April 21. At the same time, our consultant (HNTB) is able to move from conceptual design into the preliminary design phase. Preliminary design is expected to last through early June.

During the preliminary design phase, HNTB will be able to establish the horizontal alignment based on the new design elements, review and revise grading and begin to look at utility layout. A tree survey and species identification will be completed within the corridor. When this information is combined with the revised grading limits, staff will be able to provide more detailed information to property owners adjacent to the project and identify areas of concern that can be focused on as we move toward final design.

Based on our notes from the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, we developed the following list of aesthetic and landscaping elements to be discussed at the next Gateway Project work session.

## Aesthetic and Landscaping Elements

- Retaining wall appearance
- Options for aesthetic ties between the bridge and Hancher Auditorium
- Potential bridge bump-outs and seating locations
- Lighting
- Tree Survey and species identification (including Ash Trees)
- Plantings
- Potential bio-swales and median drainage

We originally planned to have the next Gateway Project work session in early May, but now feel it would be best to schedule it for late June or early July to allow adequate time to develop the concepts and to explore the following questions discussed at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The design schedule will not be impacted by moving the work session.

#### Questions Discussed at the April 1, 2014 Work Session

- Where is the best location for the 25 mph transition north of Mayflower?
- How tall is the proposed retaining wall near 1818 N. Dubuque Street?
- Should the east side walk be extended from the Cliff Apartments to Foster Road? If not, should the grading be completed to accommodate it in the future? What effect does this sidewalk have on the property at 1818 N. Dubuque Street? Is there a cost analysis for doing it now v. in the future (20 years).
- Can the Iowa River Trail on the west side of Dubuque Street meander through Terrell Mill Park as it currently does or should it follow along the road?
- Without a pedestrian crosswalk in front of Mayflower, what other design elements can be introduced to improve the crosswalk and make it more visible to vehicles?
- Is there a plan to have green space / plantings between the river bank and the bottom of the proposed retaining wall south of Terrell Mill Park?
- What are the Kimball Road impacts?
- More detail is needed south of Park Road to the end of the project. What are the impacts to the first property on the west side and its driveway? What does the east sidewalk between Brown Street and Park Road look like and how tall is the retaining wall that is required?
- Are pocket parks possible throughout the corridor and more specifically at the bottom of the Bella Vista bluff?
- Is a promenade or other pedestrian friendly area possible along Dubuque Street? Can similar areas or bump outs be provided on Park Road Bridge?
- Can the west side trail be placed at the bottom of the wall, or at a lower, river walk elevation? Should a separate walk be provided at a lower elevation in addition to the trail? Is a split-grade crossing possible on the east abutment of the bridge?

During the design process, the web site and the public email distribution list will continue to be used whenever there is new information available. Communication with the City Council will continue to occur as needed or when requested through the information packets and work sessions. As always, do not hesitate to contact staff with any additional questions or comments during this process.

Cc: Ron Knoche, City Engineer  
Melissa Clow, Special Projects Manager