

CITY OF SIOUX CITY I-29 RECONSTRUCTION – UTILITY RELOCATION

ISSUE

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) continues to make progress with the reconstruction of Interstate 29 within the corporate limits of Sioux City. The direct impact to Sioux City is the requirement to move major utilities out of the interstate access controlled right-of-way. Initial estimates had the City's costs between \$17 million and \$25 million. Considering actual cost incurred to date and projected costs for upcoming projects, these costs have expanded to over **\$50 million**. Many factors contributed to this significant cost increase.

BACKGROUND

The City of Sioux City has been working with the IDOT for several years on the Interstate 29 reconstruction project. The project is important for Sioux City, the State of Iowa and the other states and cities in the region.

The costs of relocating utilities are high and continue to increase as projects develop and are bid. These increasing costs place a significant burden on Sioux City utility customers. The total estimated cost to the Sioux City utility customers will be approximately **\$1,600** per residential user and average approximately **\$4,000** per business user. Through bonding and the State Revolving Fund, these costs will be spread over 10 and 20 years.

A significant amount of the utilities being relocated were constructed in conjunction with the



original interstate construction project in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Based on the IDOT's current Policy for Accommodating and Adjustment of Utilities on the Primary Road System, a significant change has occurred regarding the accommodation of lateral utilities since the original installation. While these projects did allow the City to replace some facilities that were in need of replacement and to modify some utilities to accommodate increased demands from new

users, much of the utilities relocated were not due for replacement and had significant useful life left.

In addition, some of the utility modifications were already located outside of the IDOT right-of-way. The City was forced to reconstruct these utilities due to changes to the utilities within the interstate's right-of-way or modifications to the footprint of the interstate. These costs are estimated to be approximately **\$1,100,000**. This does not include costs associated with the utilities located within Chris Larson Park (Missouri River Riverfront), which is IDOT property, but outside the access control line of I-29.

SUPPORT REQUESTED

The City of Sioux City respectfully requests consideration of an appropriation to lessen the impact of this project on the City's water and sewer customers. In addition, the legislature should consider funding that would help communities impacted by large State roadway projects to offset financial burdens related to the project.

