City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – November 24, 2025
City Council – December 1, 2025

Agenda Item: Design Engineering Services Agreement for City Project No. 8989 – Gateway Dr and Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements

Submitted by: Engineering Department, David Kuharenko, PE (Assistant City Engineer)
Rachel Bremer, PE (Civil Engineer, Sr)

Staff Recommended Action: **Approve Task Order Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc for Design Engineering Services in the amount of $320,952.86 and Approve Any Necessary Budget Amendments for City Project No. 8989 – Gateway Dr and Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements**

Committee Recommended Action:

Motion by Osowski, second by Lunski, to refer to City Council with a recommendation to approve the staff recommended action. Motion passed unanimously

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

This proposed project includes realignment of the left turn lanes, reconstruction of approximately 275 feet of Columbia Rd south of Gateway Dr, reconstruction of curb radii, and replacement of the traffic signal system utilizing approximately $2.26 million of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding through the Department of Transportation (NDDOT) during the 2027 construction season. The Agreement is for Design Engineering services associated with the project which includes numerous tasks necessary to maintain federal funding eligibility for the project. These tasks include, but are not limited to, surveying, preparation of an environmental document, traffic operations analysis, public involvement, utility coordination, cost estimating, preparation of plans and specifications, and all other necessary work for the design process of this project.

This intersection has several safety concerns that have contributed to the Actual Crash Rate exceeding the Expected Crash rate by nearly 40%. Currently the northbound and southbound left turn lanes are negatively offset by approximately 15 feet, which limits the visibility of oncoming

traffic for drivers turning left onto Gateway Dr. The existing curb radii also make turning movements very difficult for trucks, often requiring them to use multiple lanes or encroach into opposing traffic to complete a turn. In addition, the existing ADA curb ramps provide limited space for pedestrians and bicyclists, making sidewalks difficult to navigate. The existing traffic signals, which were originally installed in 1978, are past their useful life, and are currently located in the clear zone.

This project is anticipated to reconstruct Columbia Rd from Gateway Dr to approximately 275 feet south, where the alignment currently shifts. This new alignment is proposed to realign the north and southbound left turn lanes to a zero offset, improving sightlines for left turning vehicles. The curb radii are likely to be increased to better accommodate truck turning movements and provide additional space for pedestrians and bicyclists. Finally, the traffic signal system is anticipated to be replaced with updated equipment featuring flashing yellow arrow, electronic "No Turn on Red" blank-out signs, and red light confirmation indicators. The signals are proposed to be relocated outside of the clear zone to further enhance safety.

The consultant engineering firm was selected based on proposal submitted specifically for this project. An advertisement requesting proposals from firms interested in providing design engineering services for this project was published. All submitting firms were evaluated based on their proposals and were then interviewed by a selection committee, including representation from the NDDOT, to further evaluate the most qualified firm. A total of four firms submitted proposals for the project and all four were interviewed. The firm Houston Engineering Inc. was ranked as the most qualified for the work. A scope of work and fee was then negotiated with the successful proposer.

This project has been considered at several previous Council/Committee meetings, some of which are as follows:

- September 26, 2022 – Committee of the Whole received an informational item regarding the HSIP and the proposed project.
- November 21, 2022 – Council Approved a Federal Funding Request which included this project.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- The work to be completed as part of the Agreement includes all necessary preliminary design engineering work following NDDOT procedures, including gathering public input, preliminary surveys, environmental permitting, project cost estimating, and other preliminary design considerations.
- This Agreement will be based on an hourly not-to-exceed contract of $320,952.86.
- Funding for the Design Engineering will be from the Street/Infrastructure Fund 4815 where $300,000 has been budgeted for 2026 and $300,000 has been budgeted for 2027.
- Based on very preliminary cost estimates, the total project cost is currently estimated at approximately $2,550,953 with a total City share of $588,953.
- This project has a funding split of approximately 90% Federal and 10% Local, with a cap of $2,263,500 on eligible project expenses.
- Design engineering is not an eligible expense for this project. Federal funding will be entirely utilized on construction costs and construction engineering. Design Engineering will be a 100% local cost. A budget amendment is required to pull funds from 2026 into 2025.

- The funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

	Total Cost	Federal	Local	Budget Year
Design Engineering (C)	*$320,953	$0	*$320,953	2025
Construction (E)	$1,578,436	$1,420,592	$157,844	2026/2027
Contingency (20%)	$316,564	$284,908	$31,656	2026/2027
Construction Engineering (E)	$285,000	$256,500	$28,500	2026/2027
Testing	$50,000	$0	$50,000	2027
Total Project Costs	$2,550,953	$1,962,000	$588,953	

*Rounded to nearest dollar
(C) Contract Cost
(E) Estimated Cost

- Additional engineering services to provide construction engineering will be addressed in the future by a separate Agreement.
- It is expected that this project will again be placed on upcoming Committee of the Whole agendas, some of which are as follows:
    - Late Summer 2026 – Plans and Specifications
    - Winter 2026 – Award of Bids
    - Winter 2026/2027 – Construction Engineering Agreement
- Bids are planned to be opened on November 13, 2026 at the NDDOT in Bismarck, ND.
- Construction is currently anticipated to take place during the 2027 construction season.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Agreement Cost Breakdown (1 page)
- Project Location Map (1 page)
- Excerpt from the 2026 City Budget showing the 6-Year CIP and programmed amount for this project (2 pages)

Phase I - IV

Estimated Hours and Cost Summary

Project: City Proj. #8989 - NDDOT Proj. No. HEU-6-986(145)
PCN: 24597
Gateway Dr & N Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements
Date: November 18, 2025

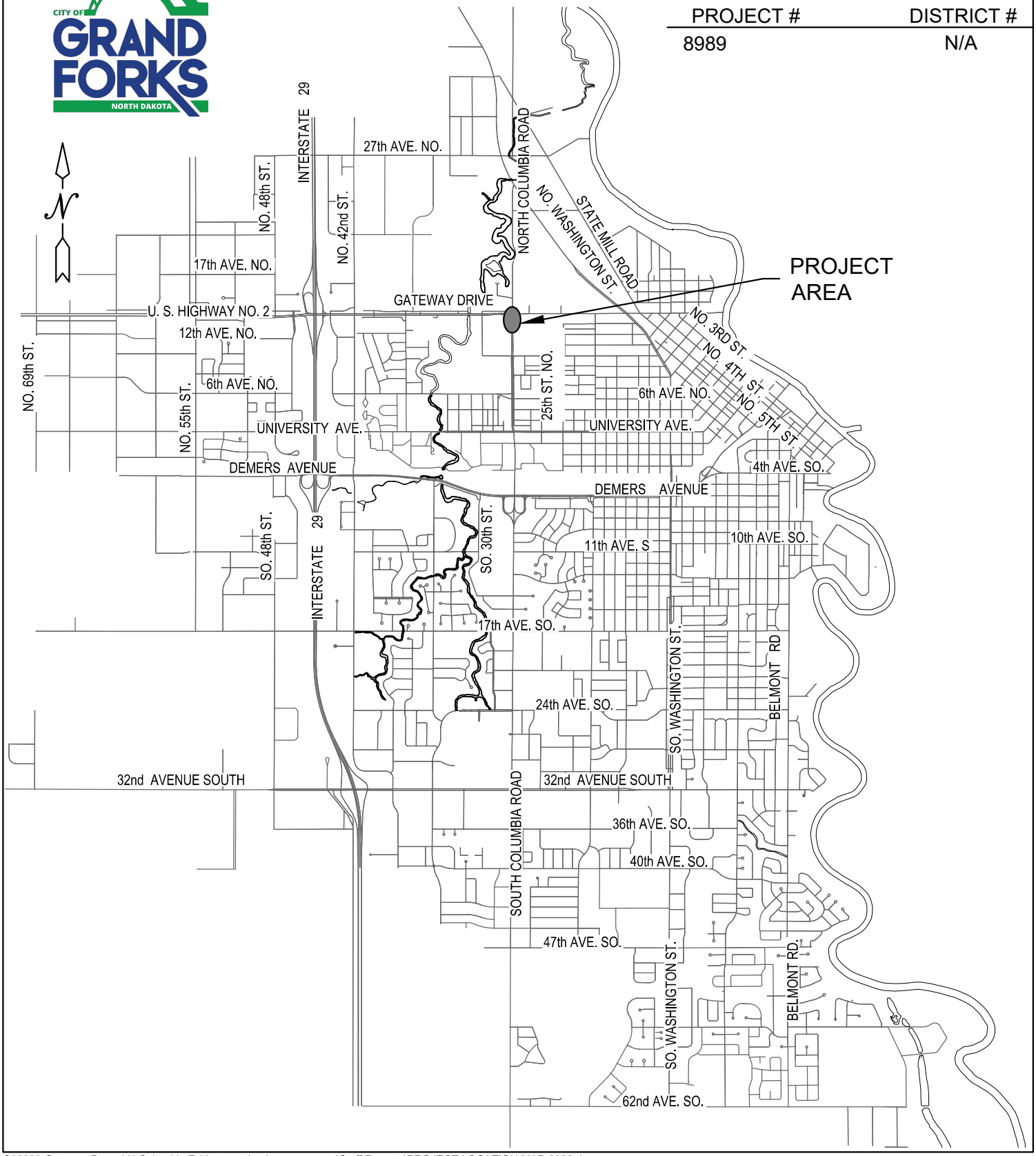
	Hours	Direct Cost
PHASE I - Project Scoping & Survey	306	$15,754.25
PHASE II - Preliminary Design	746	$40,229.45
PHASE III - Final Design	754	$38,654.60
PHASE IV - Engineer of Record	80	$4,452.35
Totals	1886	$99,090.65

Direct Labor CostsTotal		$99,090.65
Indirect Costs	164.13%	$162,637.48
Subtotal Labor and Indirect Costs		$261,728.13
Fixed Fee	12.0%	$31,407.38
FCCM	0.88%	$872.00
Subtotal Labor, Indirect Costs, Fixed Fee and FCCM		$294,007.51
Direct Costs Total		$3,645.00
Subconsultant Totals		$23,300.35
Total Estimated Costs		**$320,952.86**

PROJECT LOCATION MAP
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

GATEWAY DR & COLUMBIA RD
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT #	DISTRICT #
8989	N/A



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City of Grand Forks
2026 Budget

CIP (Continued)
Street Infrastructure Fund - Multi Year Plan

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Out Years
SOURCE/USE OF FUNDS:								
Highway Users Tax	$ 2,833,346	$ 3,326,300	$ 3,326,300	$ 3,326,300	$ 3,326,300	$ 3,326,300	$ 3,326,300	
Legacy Fund Distribution						-	-	
Sales Tax Revenue	4,278,063	4,626,726	4,765,528	4,908,494	5,055,748	5,207,421	5,363,644	
Additional 1/2% Sales Tax - Street Portion	3,884,146	4,267,973	4,411,012	4,558,343	4,710,093	4,866,396	5,027,387	
Prairie Dog Funding (direct distribution)	9,514,479	2,500,000	820,664	2,500,000	820,664	2,500,000	820,664	
FLEX Fund (direct distribution)	1,035,877	288,024	288,024	288,024	288,024	288,024	288,024	
Transfer Cash from Street & Water Sales Tax Fund (2175)	1,953,591	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	
Interest Bonding Option	83,500	147,111	82,573	35,910	102,097	78,496	59,223	
Estimated Yearly Revenue	23,583,002	15,656,134	13,694,100	15,617,071	14,302,927	16,266,637	14,885,242	
Use of Bridge Reserve Cash (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Est Carryover Beginning Yr	8,350,000	14,711,084	8,257,259	3,591,006	10,209,713	7,849,599	5,922,335	
Available for Expenditure	**31,933,002**	**30,367,218**	**21,951,359**	**19,208,077**	**24,512,640**	**24,116,236**	**20,807,577**	
USES OF FUNDS:								
PRIORITY A								
ANNUAL NON-PROJECT OPERATING COSTS								
Interdepartmental Charges/Federal Match	726,291	703,089	724,182	745,907	768,284	791,333	815,073	
Street Mtce (General Fund)	1,339,000	1,379,170	1,420,545	1,463,161	1,507,056	1,552,268	1,598,836	
Set Aside Reserve for Bridge/Underpass Project	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Transfer to 4815 Bond Reserve (1.25X Bond Payment)		437,500	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	
Sub-total Ongoing Obligations	*2,165,291*	*2,619,759*	*3,244,727*	*2,309,069*	*2,375,341*	*2,443,601*	*2,513,909*	
PRIORITY B								
PROJECTS WITH FEDERAL FUNDING (LOCAL SHARE ONLY)								
Regional Road Program								
N 5th St (Gateway Dr to Demers Ave) Chip Seal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
32nd Ave (I-29 to Washington) CPR & Microseal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sorlie Bridge Joint Replacement	15,227	-	-	-	-	-	-	
S Washington (Demers to Hammerling) Microseal	41,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Demers Ave (Central Fire Sta to 6th Ave N) CPR & Grind	-	210,000	-	-	-	-	-	
US 81 (US 2 to 1-29)	-	-	86,826	-	-	-	-	
Traffic Signal Replacement (US 2 at 42nd, Washington, Mill Rd)	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	
Gateway Dr (Red River to I-29) CPR & Grind	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	
N Washington St (1st Ave N to 8th Ave N)	-	-	-	-	1,300,000	-	-	
US 2/Gateway Dr (I-29 to N 55th St) CPR & Grind	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	
S Washington St (Demers to Hammerling) Reconstruct	-	-	-	-	1,580,000	-	-	
Future Regional Project TBD (2030)	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	
Urban Roads Program								
(Use of Bridge Reserve Funds) (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Point Bridge Rehabilitation	-	230,000	-	-	-	-	-	
S 48th St (15th Ave S to 17th Ave S)	-	-	-	-	3,185,000	-	-	
S 48th St (11th Ave S to 15th Ave S)	-	-	-	-	-	1,870,000	-	
S 48th St (7th Ave S to 11th Ave S)							1,850,000	
S 48th St (Demers Ave to 7th Ave S)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,800,000
Urban Grant Program								
N 4th St (1st Ave N to 2nd Ave N)	700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
N 4th St (2nd Ave N to University Ave)	-	-	100,000	702,845	-	-	-	
Future Urban Grant Program Project TBD (2030)	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	
Transportation Alternative Program								
Bikepath Development	100,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	100,000	150,000	100,000	
Highway Safety Improvement Program								
Speedminder Signs	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
S Washington St & 28th Ave S Turn Lane Extension	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
US 2/Gateway Dr & N Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements	-	300,000	300,000	-	-	-	-	
US 2/Gateway Dr & N 43rd St Intersection Improvements	-	-	125,000	-	-	-	-	
S Columbia Rd & 24th Ave S Intersection Improvements	-	-	160,000	150,000	-	-	-	
S Columbia Rd & 28th Ave S Intersection Improvements	-	-	160,000	150,000	-	-	-	
Future HSIP Project TBD (2029)	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	
Future HSIP Project TBD (2030)	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	
Future HSIP Project TBD (2031)	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	
Flexible Transportation Fund								
47th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 34th St)	-	1,331,000	-	-	-	-	-	
EDA Disaster Relief Program								
70th Ave N (N Washington St to 1/2 Mile W of 55th)	430,000	1,100,000	-	-	-	-	-	
Safe Streets and Roads For All Program								
Reconstruct 4th Ave S (Walnut St to Belmont Rd	-	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	
Reconstruct Intersection of 4th Ave S & Belmont - Roundabout	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	
Reconstruct Chestnut St (4th Ave S to 5th Ave S)	-	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	
Sub-total Projects With Federal Funding	*1,305,227*	*3,271,000*	*1,651,826*	*1,252,845*	*6,515,000*	*3,420,000*	*2,750,000*	*1,800,000*
PRIORITY C								
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE								
Bikeway Capital & Mtce	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Industrial Park Rehabilitation	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Street Maintenance								
Traffic Signal Maintenance/Controllers	198,700	202,700	206,800	211,000	215,000	219,000	223,000	
Minor Street Repairs	360,000	370,000	377,000	385,000	393,000	401,000	409,000	
Maintenance of Street Lights	138,100	140,900	143,800	147,000	150,000	153,000	156,000	
Minor Intersection Improvements	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Diamond Grade Reflectivity	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
ADA Sidewalks	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Replacement Batteries	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
LED Street Light Replacement Program	-	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000	-	
Arterial Street Lightning Maintenance (Conductors and Fixtures)	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000	
Centracs Traffic Signal Software Renewal	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Pavement Management	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	
Intelligent Transportation System	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	
Transportation Studies & Consulting Assistance	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	
Quiet Zone Redundancy	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Bridge/Box Culvert Rehabilitation								-
Bridge GF-08 University Ave/English Coulee	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridge GF-11 Cherry St/South End Drainway	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridge GF-14 6th Ave N/English Coulee	-	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridge GF-16 S 34th St/English Coulee	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridge 18-136-18.0 N 69th St/English Coulee Diversion	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500,000
Bridge 18-137-17.0 N 55th St/English Coulee Diversion	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Engineering Design Services for 2029 Bridge Projects	-	-	-	75,000	-	-	-	
Bridge GF-10 S Washington St/49th Ave S	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	
Bridge GF-07 27th Ave N/English Coulee	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	
Bridge GF-05 Mill Rd/English Coulee	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	
Bridge GF-04 17th Ave S/English Coulee	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	

Street/Infrastructure Fund

G/L Account	Account Description		2023 Amended Budget	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Amended Budget	2024 Actual Amount	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Adopted Budget
Fund **4815 - Street/Infrastructure Fund**								
	Council Adopted	42nd St Utility Relocation & Environmental Mitigation					1.0000	350,000.00	350,000.00
4815.100.650.0010	Council Adopted	47th Ave Interchange Support					1.0000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
	Council Adopted	47th Ave S (S Columbia Rd to S 34th St)					1.0000	1,331,000.00	1,331,000.00
	Council Adopted	70th Ave N (N Washington St to 1/2 Mile of N 55th)					1.0000	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00
	Council Adopted	AISAC 17th Ave S					1.0000	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00
	Council Adopted	Bikepath Development					1.0000	100,000.00	100,000.00
	Council Adopted	Bikeway Capital & Mtce					1.0000	100,000.00	100,000.00
	Council Adopted	Bridge/Box Culvert Rehabilitation					1.0000	250,000.00	250,000.00
	Council Adopted	Demers Ave (Central Fire Sta to 6th Ave N) CPR & Grind					1.0000	210,000.00	210,000.00
	Council Adopted	Fog & Scrub Seal					1.0000	87,500.00	87,500.00
	Council Adopted	Industrial Park Rehabilitation					1.0000	50,000.00	50,000.00
	Council Adopted	Intelligent Transportation System					1.0000	90,000.00	90,000.00
	Council Adopted	Korynta-Lemm Paving N 55th St and 17th Ave N					1.0000	4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00
	Council Adopted	LED Street Light Replacement Program					1.0000	60,000.00	60,000.00
	Council Adopted	M&O 62nd Ave S (S Washington St to S Columbia Rd)					1.0000	525,000.00	525,000.00
	Council Adopted	M&O Belmont Rd (S 5th St to 17th Ave S)					1.0000	542,500.00	542,500.00
	Council Adopted	Pavement Management					1.0000	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Council Adopted	Point Bridge Rehabilitation					1.0000	230,000.00	230,000.00
	Council Adopted	Quiet Zone Redundancy					1.0000	50,000.00	50,000.00
	Council Adopted	Railroad Crossing Improvements					1.0000	100,000.00	100,000.00
	Council Adopted	Reconstruct 11th Ave N (Gateway to N 4th St)					1.0000	154,000.00	154,000.00
	Council Adopted	Reconstruct 17th Av S (S 20th St to Rider)					1.0000	966,000.00	966,000.00
	Council Adopted	Reconstruct 5th Ave S (Demers to Xcel)					1.0000	420,000.00	420,000.00
	Council Adopted	Reconstruct Alley between N 3rd St & N 4th St					1.0000	168,000.00	168,000.00
	Council Adopted	S 34th St (45th Ave to 47th Ave S)					1.0000	819,000.00	819,000.00
	Council Adopted	Street Mtce (Traffic Signal/Minor Street Repair/Etc)					1.0000	833,600.00	833,600.00
	Council Adopted	Transportation Studies					1.0000	80,000.00	80,000.00
	Council Adopted	US 2/Gateway Dr & N Columbia Rd Intersection Improvements					1.0000	300,000.00	300,000.00