



## February 2019 Project Highlights

### Police:

- **Radio System Update:** There were two submissions to the radio systems upgrade Request for Proposals. StoryComm has been formed to contract with the selected vendor to own and operate the system. StoryComm consists of the City of Ames, Iowa State University (ISU), Story County, and the 911 Board.

The purchasing team has reviewed the information provided by vendors, considered their presentations and is pursuing clarifying questions. Preliminary scoring has been submitted to the University's purchasing agent. At this point we remain on track to get a formal recommendation from this team which will lead to a radio contract later this spring.

- The team working on the **Animal Shelter feasibility study** received and reviewed responses from consultants who have special qualifications necessary to complete a review of the Shelter facility. The team interviewed three consultant firms and expects to have a final decision soon.
- The **Animal Shelter** started the replacement of ceiling tiles and conversion of light fixtures to LED models that provide significantly more light to help display animals for adoption. Staff also painted the customer service/front office area to make it more welcoming for visitors. Replacing the ceiling tiles and light fixtures in the dog adoption room is the next project that we will be working on.
- The Multiagency **Public Safety Group** has started work on a **system upgrade** that will improve access and security. Coordinating the use of NetMotion, an access control software package, across the user agencies and introducing a new authentication process are parts of the process. The project should be completed later this spring.

- **Wayfinding signs** have been installed in the **lobby at the Police Department**. Additional improvements in the lobby are being planned now that the new signs are installed.

**Fire:**

- **Northcrest Community** is expanding in north Ames at its location on 20<sup>th</sup> Street. The small trailer in the center of the photo (right) is a ground thawing machine. Hot water running through hoses are placed where they plan to dig and are covered with the black concrete blankets to thaw the ground prior to excavation. After the concrete footings are poured the hoses are routed next to the forms and then again covered with the concrete blankets. This creates and holds heat and prevents the concrete from



freezing before it can go through its full curing cycle. The Fire Department's Inspections Division has been busy helping the contractors stay on target with the project despite the cold temperatures. Inspectors ensure that footings meet engineering specifications and code requirements.



The next photo (left) was taken after the footings were approved and poured. The rebar has been placed into the footings, which will be inspected before the foundation walls are poured.

- On the morning of January 23, 2019 a semi-trailer caught fire on Interstate 35. The trailer was full of rubber boots and feed supplement. The photo shows what was left of the trailer after the fire was extinguished.



- On January 21, 2019 fire crews responded to a structure fire at 108 Date Court, Ames, at approximately 3:15 p.m. The mobile home was a total loss. There were no injuries and everyone made it out of the home safely before crews arrived. The photos (right and below) show what was left after the fire.



## Planning and Housing:

### Planning

- An **open house for owners of property in the floodplain** will be held on March 14, 2019, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the main conference room at the Ames Water Plant. This will be an opportunity for property owners to learn more about proposed changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The City of Ames is hosting the meeting.
- The **Downtown and Campustown Façade grant program** application periods will close on February 22nd and 25th, respectively. The City programs allow for matching funds of up to \$15,000 for compliant projects. City Council will review the grant applications later in the spring.
- **Ames Plan 2040 community outreach** is underway. The City will host two Open Houses on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ames Public Library and a second meeting will be held at the ISU Research Park CORE facility. The open houses are a chance for people to learn about the City and provide comments and ideas on issues facing the future of the City. Visit the project website at [www.cityofames.org/amesplan2040](http://www.cityofames.org/amesplan2040) to gain more information, sign up for notifications, take community surveys and provide input to the City.

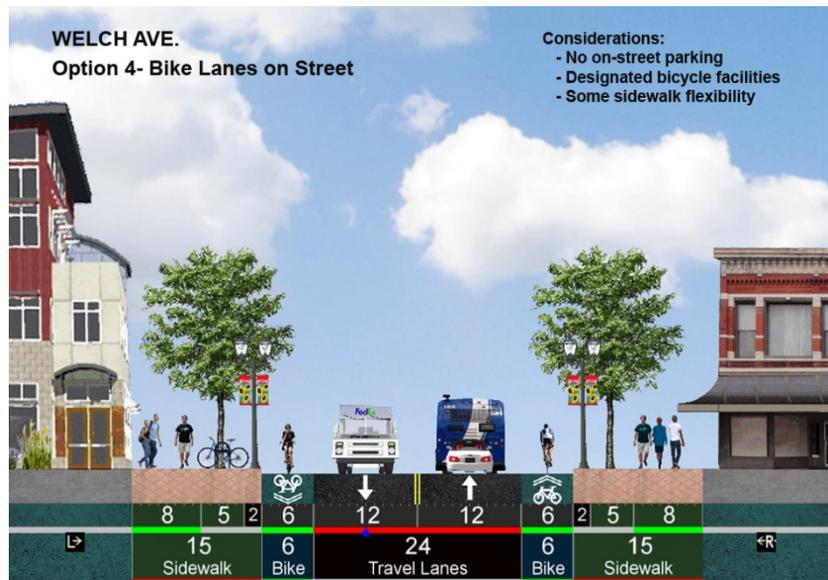
### Housing & Community Development

- Staff has contracted with the Institute for Design Research & Outreach (IDRO) at Iowa State University and will be hiring additional temporary staff to prepare the City's **2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2019-20 Annual Action Plan, and 2019 Fair Housing Impediments Study**. The team is anticipating starting more in depth public outreach and data gathering this month.
- Now that the federal government is temporarily open, staff is working with the **Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** Omaha staff to complete reports and other administrative requirements within this timeframe.

## Public Works:

- The design contract for the **Campustown Public Improvements Project** that will take place on the first block of Welch Avenue has been awarded to WHKS & Co. and RDG Planning and Design team. Staff and the design team have held a Kick-Off meeting and are gathering information. Surveying will begin in the near future as weather permits. Information exchange, public outreach and business coordination will commence in late

January or early February. Overall design is expected to extend through Spring with construction during Summer and Fall. The cross section approved by City Council is shown at right.



- Snow related issues for missed streets, mailbox damage, and snow-covered sidewalks can all be reported to Ames on the Go. If City Council Members or City employees receive these calls they can be entered into Ames on the Go via the website homepage by clicking on the Mobile Reporting icon.