



September 2019 Project Highlights

Public Works

- Every five years, the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization collaborates with our regional partners and community residents to create and shape the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. We are launching an update to the plan, known as Forward 2045, with the goals of helping the Ames area meet its future mobility and safety needs, and to plan for growth in the metro.

The foundation of the plan will be the community's priorities and values. There are many community input opportunities throughout the plan update. In addition to residents' input, the Forward 2045 plan will consider a variety of regional trends including land use, economic development, travel needs, public health, social needs, safety, security, etc. This approach allows the Ames area to identify the strategies, policies, projects and transformational technologies that will create a locally-relevant, multi-modal plan.

The Forward 2045 plan is about more than just solving traffic problems. The plan aims to identify future transportation strategies for bicyclists, pedestrians, bus riders, and drivers that will increase mobility and traveler safety, while fostering wider regional inclusion and prosperity, higher standards of living, and broader connections for people throughout the community.

- Public Works crews painted the Inclusion Crosswalk at 5th Street and Douglas on September 3rd. A small celebration was held on September 3rd at the crosswalk, with comments from Mayor Haila and ISU Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Reg Stewart.
- More than 500 signs have been installed for ISU Football game day parking around the stadium and within the nearby residential neighborhoods. There are new parking citation fees that will discourage parking in the residential neighborhoods.



- Multiple options have been presented for the development of available land for the Airport Master Plan. A public meeting was held at the beginning of July for input and review. A follow-up public meeting will be held in the fall to review recommended development strategies for the Ames Municipal Airport.

- Public Works Staff attended Welcome Fest at ISU on August 28 at the Memorial Union and highlighted Smart Utilities, Smart Trash, and the upcoming Campustown Improvement Project on Welch Avenue.



- The Traffic Network Master Plan is nearing completion.

- City Council approved the request of Renewable Energy Group (REG) to equip five City snow plow trucks with Optimus System, allowing them to burn B100 (100% biodiesel) year-round. Public Works Operations will soon begin work planning the conversion.

- Many construction projects continue. An interactive construction update map can be found at www.cityofames.org/construction

- Negotiations are being made on the lift station and water tower site for the East Industrial Area utilities. It is hoped that the purchase agreement will be prepared and finalized within the coming weeks. In the meantime, the plans will be finalized for the lift station site. A plat of survey, site plan review, and stormwater management plan will also be finalized and approved for the site. Once the final plans are approved, permits will be acquired, a public meeting will be held, and the project can be bid. It is anticipated that construction will begin late fall or spring.

- Land acquisition negotiations continue for the Grand Avenue extension. Eminent domain hearings have been set. The City also needs an easement from Iowa State University. A bid letting in 2019 is still anticipated at this time.

- The extension project for South 5th Street (between Grand Avenue and S. Duff Avenue) was awarded by City Council at the July 23, 2019 meeting to Peterson Contractors Inc. of Reinbeck, Iowa, in the amount of \$3,159,304.15. This project has a late start date of April 6, 2020, which is the latest date that the contractor can commence construction.

- Land acquisition for improvements to the intersection of S. 16th Street and S. Duff Avenue are continuing. Negotiations will continue through August before filing for eminent domain. Pavement improvements along S. 16th Street are also continuing.

- The first phase of the Campustown Improvement Project that includes water service transfers on Lincoln Way has been completed. Work continues on the design of the first block of Welch Avenue.

Engineering continues to work with RDG on the tree trenching and storm water features, collaborate with the Electric department and Alliant Energy on utility relocates, and explore the option of heated sidewalks.



- A rain barrel was installed on the south side of the Resource Recovery Plant to collect water for the plants in the pollinator flower beds. The first picture is of a monarch caterpillar, and the second picture shows one of our pollinator gardens.



- Tim Ellis, Associate Professor at ISU in the Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering Department, will again be sending 90 students to tour the Resource Recovery Plant. Here's an excerpt from Tim's letter: "Thank you so much for being willing to let our CE326 Principles of Environmental class tour the Ames Resource Recovery Plant. It is such a great opportunity for the students to see what is going on in their very own 'backyard'. It is also interesting to hear about the history of solid waste management in Ames and all the changes that have been made over the years to not only improve the efficiency of the plant, but also to respond to environmental challenges and concerns. I always ask students at the beginning of the semester what they think is the greatest environmental challenge. On their final exam, I ask the same question and ask how their answer has changed over the course of the semester. Every time, at least a handful of students mention how the field trip to the Ames Resource Recovery Plant in particular helped to shape their current thinking on the environmental challenges we face especially as it relates to solid waste management. Often

they respond that they had no idea that all their solid waste went to the Resource Recovery Plant where it was used to generate clean energy.”

- The 4th Rummage RAMPage was a huge success, diverting 116,424 pounds from landfill, and raised \$33,194 for non-profits in our community. This little guy enjoyed one of the “Make An Offer” section of books.
- The Food Waste Diversion pilot project is off to a good start with more than 50 kits distributed so far. 300 pounds of food waste collected was collected in the month of July.



- Resource Recovery partnered with Story County Conservation and provided a roll off box for a Skunk River clean-up effort. 28 tires, 4 rims, and 2,540 pounds of trash were taken out of the river.
- Resource Recovery staff members Bill Schmitt and Mark Peebler attended a Sustainable Materials Management discussion held by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This discussion is to create a Sustainable Materials Management vision for Iowa that may be used as a statewide guide for future sustainable materials management related action. This guide will provide the foundation to update laws, policy, and programs arising from the 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection and 1989 Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Act.

Fire:

- The Ames Fire Department and Inspection Division teamed up with Ames Police Department and the ISU Student Conduct Office for a Back to School Blitz! The goal was to go to each single-family or two-family rental dwelling in targeted areas to educate the tenants on what it means to be a good neighbor and to be safe. Four teams, each comprised of a representative from APD, ISU, Inspections, and Fire, blitzed the neighborhoods on August 19th from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our first ever Blitz was successful! We spoke to people at 98 properties and handed out 250 goodie/information bags.



Library:

- Ames Public Library served 5,479 free lunches to youth under the age of 18 years of age through the partnership with the USDA Summer Food Service Program. This is an average of 96 lunches served per day.
- On Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., come and experience Step into Storybooks at the Ames Public Library. Enjoy activities for the whole family that bring books to life! Every child age 0-5 will receive a free book.
- Celebrate Literacy with Smyles and Cy on Tuesday, September 10 at Hilton Coliseum. All ages are invited to a special literacy event before ISU's volleyball game. Between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. there will be fun, family-friendly activities and a story time at 6:15 p.m. Smyles the big blue Library dog and the Bookmobile will be there too! Families may pick up a Reading Challenge sheet at Ames Public Library to read their way to a free ticket to the volleyball game! (See cyclones.com for regular ticket prices and ordering.)
- September is National Library Card month. Make sure to get yours today!
- Pridefest is September 7, and the library will feature several educational and family friendly activities. Indoor activities will be going on from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and outdoor activities will be going on from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Planning and Housing:

Planning:

- Ames Plan 2040 Scenario outreach began on August 22nd with a Design Studio and open house hosted by RDG. Approximately 50+ people attended the open house to review past work and discuss scenarios and infill options. **An online comment tool is also available to review the draft growth scenario work and provide input to the City. Please go to www.cityofames.org/amesplan2040.** Staff anticipates City Council review of growth scenarios and new information on infill options at its October 22nd meeting.
- Ames Plan 2040 City Council discussion of vision and goals will be on September 24th. City Council will review information from public input and prior to discussions to help define goals and priorities for the community and how Ames Plan 2040 would shape the community. This is an important step in the process to move forward on evaluating scenarios and preparing a draft plan later this winter.
- The Downtown Façade Program is open and the City is actively seeking applications. The deadline to submit for a matching grant of up to \$15,000 is September 23rd. More information can be found at the Planning Division website.
- A rezoning request for the corner of Clark Avenue and Lincoln Way has been filed by the property owner to change the current Downtown Gateway Commercial zoning to the prior Highway Oriented

Commercial zoning. The applicant believes the zone change would facilitate relocating the existing Starbucks in the 300 Block of Lincoln Way and open up more area to the east for redevelopment consistent with the goals of the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan. Planning and Zoning Commission will review the item on September 4th and City Council will review it on September 24th.

- The former K-Mart site is under new ownership. City Council approved the Final Plat for the integrated Site Development Plan in July to allow for the purchase of the property by the developer. Building permits for the remodeling of the existing building are under review by staff.
- On August 14, 2019, the City Development Board approved the voluntary annexation of eighteen parcels of land comprising approximately 156 acres, located south of Oakwood Road, between University Boulevard/530th and Cedar Lane. The annexed land is automatically zoned as “A” (Agricultural). A portion of this area is anticipated to be developed with a PRD (Planned Residence District) by Steve Burgason.

Housing & Community Development:

- Staff submitted the City’s CDBG 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2019-20 Annual Action Plan to HUD before the deadline date of August 16, 2019. Staff is now waiting on HUD’s approval of the Plans to proceed with the 2019-20 program projects, until the approval 2018-19 roll-funds will be utilized.
- Staff has started preparing the 2018-19 CDBG/HOME Consolidated Annual Evaluation Performance Report (CAPER), that will be subject to a 15-day comment period and due to HUD on or before October 31, 2019.

Water and Pollution Control

- Work on the **improvements to the low head dam** in North River Valley Park is (finally) progressing, thanks to cooperating river flows. Work is occurring on the canoe/kayak recreation area on east side of the channel. During this period, the river flow is being diverted to the west side of the channel where the future fish passage will be constructed. Based on the pace of progress and the current river level, the expected completion of the in-channel elements is in October. Work on the bank-side amenities will follow. The timing on those elements will depend on how much progress can be made before winter weather shuts down work for the season.



- On August 26 and 27, a contractor completed **cleaning the exterior of the elevated tank at the intersection of State Avenue and Mortenson Road (SAM Tank)**. Because the tank is filled with fresh, cool water every day, it tends to “sweat,” much like a cold glass.

The damp condensation of the side of the tank tends to catch dirt and dust blown by the wind. Periodically, the tank exterior is pressure washed. This cleaning not only improves the appearance of the tank, but also helps to extend the life of the coating system.

The maintenance schedule for the elevated tanks includes cleaning the interiors every three years (one of the three tanks is cleaned each fiscal year). Beginning with this SAM Tank project, cleaning the exteriors of each tank will be undertaken on an approximate seven to ten year schedule as needed.

The paint coatings systems on the elevated tanks should have a life of between 20 and 30 years.

