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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque awarded \$500,000 for traffic flow enhancements

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque was recently awarded a \$500,000 competitive grant by the Iowa Office of Energy Independence that will be used to replace traffic signals, improve traffic flow, increase safety and reduce air pollution and gas consumption along the Central Avenue/Highway 52 corridor between 9th Street and the Northwest Arterial.

The funds will allow the replacement of traffic lights and a three decade-old traffic interconnect system as well as the installation of fiber optic cable and conduit along the corridor. These updates will enable the synchronization of the traffic signals to improve traffic flow and will tie into the City's Traffic Operations Center at City Hall.

"This is great news for everyone who has to travel Central Avenue north of downtown," said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. "It's going to make their drive safer, faster and cheaper and will also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles stopped at the lights."

The money comes from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, given to the state and re-granted to communities across Iowa. The award was one of nearly 100 awarded to communities across the state totaling \$8.3 million.

The purpose of the Iowa EECBG program is to provide funding, via a competitive grant process, to assist local governments in creating and implementing strategies to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable and maximize benefits for local and regional communities
- Reduce total energy use of the eligible entities
- Improve energy efficiency in the building, transportation and other appropriate sectors
- Create and retain jobs

For more information visit: <http://www.energy.iowa.gov/>

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