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New Proposal for Southwest Arterial

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol led a community delegation in a presentation to the Iowa Transportation Commission at a public meeting in Coralville today. The presentation detailed a proposed “transfer of jurisdiction” between the City of Dubuque and the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) designed to expedite the completion of the Southwest Arterial project to connect US Highway 20 with US Highways 52/61/151.

Since last summer and following the suggestion of Iowa DOT Director Paul Trombino, City of Dubuque and East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) representatives have been discussing the possibility of a transfer of jurisdiction which would turn the Southwest Arterial project over to the Iowa DOT and make it a State of Iowa project, rather than a local project. In return, the City of Dubuque would assume the operation, maintenance, and capacity improvement costs for the Northwest Arterial (Iowa Highway 32) and the portion of US Highway 52 (US 52) within the Dubuque city limits (parts of Central Avenue and White Street).

As part of this agreement, the portion of US 52 and Iowa Highway 3 (IA 3) between Dubuque and Luxemburg, that portion of US 52 would become IA 3 only. US 52 would instead continue south on Iowa Highway 136 (IA 136) from Luxemburg to Dyersville where it would connect to US 20 and become US 20/52 from Dyersville to the Seippel Road interchange and then the Southwest Arterial becomes US 52. The goal of this redesignation of roadways is to create a safer, more efficient freight corridor between Luxemburg and Dubuque and remove downtown Dubuque from the freight route. Importantly, it would also make the Southwest Arterial part of US 52.

The completion of the Southwest Arterial is the #1 surface transportation priority for the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), and the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS).

“We firmly believe this arrangement represents the best opportunity for expedited completion of the Southwest Arterial and the City and our partners look forward to finalizing this

agreement,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “This is a comprehensive plan that will benefit our community and the region in several ways.”

The transfer of jurisdiction and redesignations are expected to remove a significant amount of freight traffic from downtown Dubuque, provide some traffic relief to residents of the Fremont Avenue and Kelly Lane area, make Central Avenue and White Street much safer streets for residents, and will open land along the Southwest Arterial for future expansion for existing businesses, will attract new business to our region, and lead to the creation of more jobs.

In recent months, City of Dubuque and ECIA staff met with officials from Dubuque County and all seven communities directly affected by this proposed plan, as well as the four communities indirectly affected, to discuss the proposal and gather feedback. Next, the City of Dubuque and ECIA will finalize the transfer of jurisdiction agreement and then a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Iowa DOT for the continued development and advancement of the Southwest Arterial. The Iowa DOT is unable to commit to a construction schedule because it will be based on funding availability. Once the Southwest Arterial Project is fully constructed, the Iowa DOT will take over jurisdiction of the Southwest Arterial and, in return, the City will take over jurisdiction of the Northwest Arterial and US 52 now in Dubuque.

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MAP OF PROPOSED REDESIGNATION ATTACHED

US 52 Redesignation Concept

