



City of Carlisle
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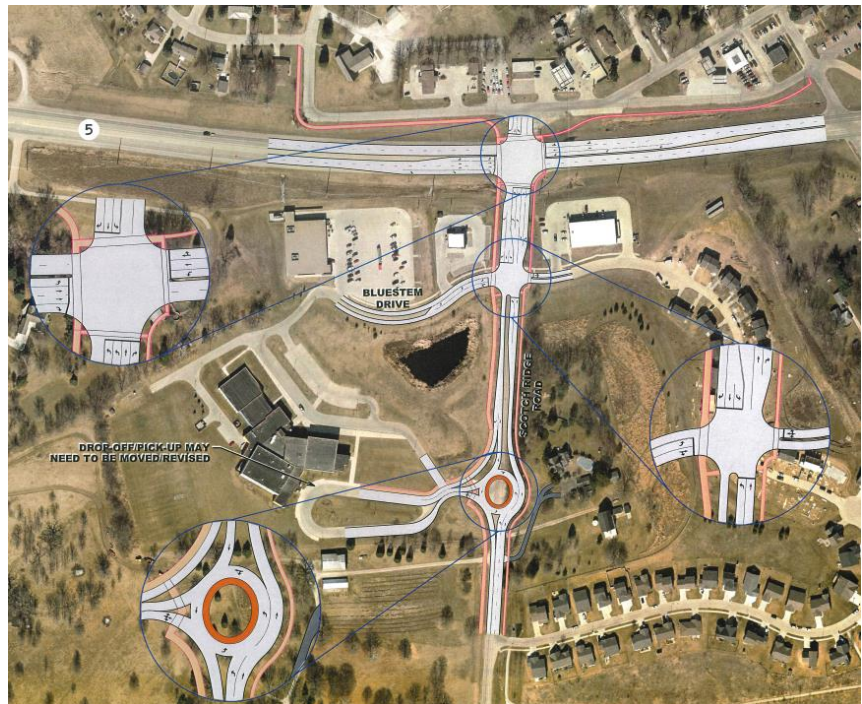
The Scotch Ridge Road Project is underway. The overall goal of the project is to improve the intersection of Highway 5 and Scotch Ridge Road as well as improve traffic flow around the Middle School and surrounding businesses.

The project cost is approximately \$3,248,000. Approximately \$1.837 Million or 56.5% of that amount is being paid for through federal funds coming through our membership in the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization or MPO. With this being a city project that connects to State Highway 5, the DOT is also involved through approvals and oversight of the project. Final plans were reviewed and include numerous improvements to the intersection as well as to Highway 5 and Scotch Ridge Road. To get to the final design, the City hosted a focus group to vet several designs. That group collected public comments through several public meetings and then made final recommendation to Council, who also had public meetings on the final design. Late last year, the City engaged our engineer, McClure Engineering, to do final design and bid the work. From those bids, local contractor, Sternquist Construction from Indianola received the winning bid.

Some of the highlighted improvements include:

- Additional turning lane from Frontage Road to Highway 5
- Addition of turning lane from Highway 5 headed east to Scotch Ridge Road
- Addition of turning lane from Highway 5 headed east to Scotch Ridge Road
- Reconstruction of median on Highway 5 in both directions turning onto Scotch Ridge Road
- Addition of two turning lanes coming off of Scotch Ridge Road onto Highway 5
- Improvements and additional lanes at the intersection of Bluestem Drive and Scotch Ridge Road
- Addition of a turning lane from Scotch Ridge Road onto Bluestem Road
- Addition of a turning lane from Scotch Ridge Road at the Middle School entrance
- Addition of a roundabout at the Middle School entrance
- Addition of sidewalks throughout the project including one crossing Highway 5

In addition to the improvements listed, we are having continued conversations with the Carlisle School District regarding transportation concerns expressed by the public in and around the school's facilities. Both the District and the City take any concerns seriously and are committed to working together to address them.



Unfortunately, there is not a single fix to help address every issue and the overall solution will need to include help from you as you travel in and around the school. Our hope is that these improvements will help alleviate many of the concerns raised in the past. You can help in a couple ways throughout the project and once it is complete though:

- Be patient and understanding with those involved with the project throughout construction
- Think about alternative routes that avoid the area whenever possible
- Be mindful of all temporary and permanent traffic signage; they are there for a reason
- Be respectful to fellow motorists; decisions you make can create larger traffic flow issues
- Remember that the construction is temporary and meant to improve overall traffic flow in the long-term

Finally, we are aware of the current concerns surrounding the flow of traffic at the intersection. Mayor Merrifield and Council have said that continued traffic flow throughout the project is very important to seeing the project as successful. As such, our engineers at McClure, police chief, public works superintendent, and myself are amongst those actively monitoring the traffic situation.

We are working with Sternquist, the Iowa DOT, and McClure to address concerns as best we can. McClure has on site representatives and City staff will be making regular visits to the construction site. We will be having bi-weekly construction meetings as well as numerous conversations face-to-face and via phone. Traffic flow and signage concerns are a standing agenda item in those discussions. We appreciate your understanding and patience throughout this high-impact project.

On Behalf of the City of Carlisle,

Deven Markley,
City Administrator