



Interchange Justification Report Approved – Full Diamond Interchange at 100th Street Moving Forward

Today the City of Urbandale was notified that the Federal Highway Administration approved the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) for the new I-35/80 access at 100th Street. This is an important milestone after years of work by the City and its partners to enhance safety, efficiency and economic development potential in a unique interstate corridor. Urbandale is at the center of a section of interstate in which coast-to-coast I-80 and border-to-border I-35 are combined.

The approval of the IJR is the last step in the process to approve a full diamond interchange at 100th Street. The City of Urbandale began projects this year to prepare 100th Street between Plum Drive and NW 54th Avenue for the interchange. Those projects include:

Replacing the 100th Street Bridge with a new bridge designed to interchange standards.

Widening 100th Street, adding turn lanes, raised medians and curb and gutter from Plum Drive (south of the interstate) to NW 54th Avenue, where the cities of Urbandale, Johnston and Grimes meet.

Traffic signals will also be installed at Northpark Drive and NW 54th Avenue.

It is expected that the ramps for the interchange will be graded in 2017 and paved and opened to traffic in 2018.

The addition of an access point at 100th Street is part of a larger project to include new interstate access at Meredith Drive and reconfigured access to Iowa Highway 141. Final approval for those projects is pending. When complete, these projects are expected to significantly increase traffic safety and efficiency in the interstate corridor.

The interchanges will also provide important access to growing business parks in the area. Over seven hundred acres of development land, much of it master-planned and shovel-ready, will be served by expanded interstate access. These

development areas are unique in offering freeway visibility, robust amenities, business services and easy access for talented employees from anywhere in the region. The improved access will provide new opportunities for business investment and employment growth in a vibrant area where there is synergy among businesses and infrastructure in place to meet business needs.

To stay up-to-date on this project, please visit www.urbandale.org/interchanges

TEDTalk Viewing and Discussion with Local Business Owner at Urbandale Library

Goodwill Industries' Career Connection Center is hosting four community events this fall centered on topics for a successful career. The first in the series will be held at the Urbandale Public Library and will feature a previously recorded TEDTalk on *Everyday Leadership*. Urbandale Beer House owner Nick Kuhn will facilitate a discussion after the viewing. The event is on **Thursday, September 8 at 4:00 PM**. It is free to attend and open to the public. Please call 515-265-5323 and ask for Wes to register.

Urbandale to Recognize Companies with ESOPs in October

The State of Iowa passed legislation in 2012 to encourage the formation of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs). The [Iowa Economic Development Authority website](#) lists some of the benefits of ESOPs for employees, businesses and for Iowa: Ownership allows a business' employees to increase wealth without the risks of purchasing or starting a business on their own and their job security and personal satisfaction increase. ESOP businesses see increased productivity, profitability, durability and return to shareholders. IEDA also notes that ESOPs may retain businesses and wealth in Iowa communities that otherwise may be lost in an ownership change.

Urbandale also has ESOP companies that contribute to the community. October is ESOP month and the City plans to recognize its ESOP businesses. Does your company have an ESOP? If so, [let us know](#).

Approved, Issued, Opened in Urbandale

Urbandale provides many opportunities for commercial and residential investment. Below are some recent projects:

Opened: [Tildy's Boutique](#) leased approximately 1400 square feet at 3407 70th Street.

Opened: [Madison & Co. Dance Studio](#) leased approximately 2800 square feet at 7501 Douglas Avenue.

Open(ing): [Taco Hangover](#) leased approximately 4000 square feet at 3701-3705 86th Street in Urban Town Center. They expect to open early 2017.

Site Plan Approved for construction of an approximately 19,000 square foot addition to Royal Flooring's existing facility at 9850 Douglas Avenue.

Final Plat Approved for 23 single family lots totaling 5.5 acres at The Reserve (142nd Street and Holcomb Avenue).

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City of Urbandale Economic Development Department Website

www.urbandale.org/econdev

Online Available Site and Building Database

www.urbandale.org/224/Available-Properties

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