



### **Interchange Projects Update: Invitation to Public Hearing on October 24**

The Iowa Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 24 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Johnston** to discuss the proposed half-diamond interchange at Meredith Drive and reconfigured access at Interstate 35/80 and Iowa 141 interchange (Rider Corner) in Urbandale. Iowa DOT staff will be available to informally discuss the proposed improvements between 5:00 and 6:00 PM. A formal presentation will begin at 6 PM followed by Q&A. If you or stakeholders you know have an interest in this project, please consider attending. Public hearing details are available on the [IDOT website](#). If unable to attend the meeting in person, you may submit comments [online at this link](#).

The IDOT has also posted **new perspective renderings** of the proposed projects. Those renderings are [available here](#).

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### **Iowa Workforce Development Completes Study of Urbandale Workforce**

Last month, IWD completed its survey of the workforce available for businesses in Urbandale, Grimes and Johnston. This “Laborshed Study,” last completed in March 2014, analyzes characteristics of current and potential employees that work and live in the Laborshed area.

Notable differences between the 2014 and latest study results include:

- 9% increase in total potential labor force
- 15% increase in number of people employed
- Those unemployed and willing to work in Laborshed will commute up to 25 miles each way, an increase from 20 miles in 2014
- 49% increase in number of individuals self-reporting they are underemployed (due to inadequate hours, mismatch of skills or receiving a low income)
- Nearly 60% of individuals identify their underemployment as a mismatch of skills, defined as working in a position that does not meet their skill/education levels

- 35% increase in number of employees working in finance, insurance and real estate sector

Other topics covered in the report include willingness of current employees to change employment, current and desired occupations, wages, hours worked and more. See the executive summary and full report on the [Economic Development Department website](#).

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### **New Members Appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Board**

The City of Urbandale Economic Development Advisory Board was formed in 2013 to help staff formulate the best strategies for investment and job creation in Urbandale. The City Council recently supported Mayor Andeweg's appointment of two additional members to the City's Economic Development Advisory Board. **Jaclyn Hayek of Bluestone Project Solutions** and **Mark Anderson of Anderson Properties** join the Board representing the perspectives of real estate development and brokerage. These appointments underscore the important role that careful development of sites and construction and management of facilities has in shaping Urbandale's economic development success. [Follow this link](#) to learn more about the Economic Development Advisory Board and the other members.

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### **Urbandale Appoints Complete Streets Advisory Committee**

In June 2016, the Urbandale Mayor and City Council approved a Complete Streets policy. The policy encourages consideration of streets that are for everyone, whether walking, bicycling, driving or riding transit. Last month, the Mayor appointed a [Complete Streets Advisory Committee](#) to inform and guide implementation of the policy. Stay tuned for more information as this Committee works to provide additional commuting and transportation options for your employees, clients and neighbors in Urbandale.

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#### **City of Urbandale Economic Development Department Website**

[www.urbandale.org/econdev](http://www.urbandale.org/econdev)

#### **Online Available Site and Building Database**

[www.urbandale.org/224/Available-Properties](http://www.urbandale.org/224/Available-Properties)

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