

November 21, 2025

Mr. Jim Schnoebelen,  
District Engineer  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
District 6 Office  
5455 Kirkwood Blvd. SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Subject: U-STEP Application – US 52 Corridor Safety and Operational Improvements

Dear Jim:

The City of Dyersville respectfully requests funding assistance through the Urban-State Traffic Engineering Program (USTEP) to address critical safety and operational concerns along the US 52 corridor within our city limits. This application covers the segment from the west side of US 52 at 12th Avenue to approximately 130 feet north of 10th Avenue.

With the planned installation of a traffic signal at 12th Avenue, the existing driveway at the Colonial Inn Motel presents a significant conflict for northbound vehicles turning left across the proposed southbound left-turn lane. This setup increases the potential for crashes and disrupts traffic flow. Our proposed USTEP project will address this issue by removing the current driveway and constructing a shared access at the south end of the Tauke Motors property. This change shifts northbound left-turn movements away from the southbound turn lane, directly enhancing safety and operational efficiency.

The project will also remove right-of-way encroachments at both the Colonial Inn and Tauke Motors properties. Parking stalls within the right-of-way at the motel will be eliminated, and raised islands with curb and gutter will be installed along Tauke Motors' frontage. These changes convert this section of US 52 from a rural to an urban cross-section, filling the existing ditch and managing stormwater through curb, gutter, intakes, and storm sewer pipes.

By combining two access points into a single shared driveway, we will reduce conflict points along this busy corridor, maintain consistent arterial speeds, and decrease mid-block congestion. These improvements align with the Iowa DOT and FHWA access management guidelines, which indicate a 25–31 percent reduction in severe crashes along urban arterials with active access management (FHWA-SA-12-006).

Converting the entire US 52 corridor within city limits into an urban section is crucial for long-term safety and consistency. This project is a strong first step toward that goal and will offer immediate operational and safety improvements for travelers.

This application includes supporting technical exhibits and a detailed safety narrative.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with your office to advance this important improvement for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick Michel", written in a cursive style.

Mick J. Michel  
City Administrator