



City of Dyersville
City Administrator's Office

May 18, 2026

Mayor Jacque and City Council Members
City of Dyersville
Memorial Building
340 1st Avenue East
Dyersville, IA 52040

RE: Resolution No. 50-26 – Approval of the WHKS Engineering Agreement for the 3rd Avenue SW Bridge Project

Dear Honorable Mayor Jacque and Council Members:

I am writing in support of Resolution No. 50-26. The resolution approves an engineering contract with WHKS & Co. The contract pays for the design work needed to replace the 3rd Avenue SW bridge. This is the next step in a project the Council has been working on for more than a year.

The 3rd Avenue SW bridge crosses the North Fork Maquoketa River. It was built in 1967. It is an important link for homes, businesses, and emergency services. The 2024 bridge inspection rated it as Poor. The deck is cracking. Concrete is breaking off. Steel inside the bridge is rusting. The bridge has reached the end of its useful life. It needs to be replaced.

On February 17, 2025, the Council approved Resolution No. 26-25. That resolution joined the City with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and other partners in a joint grant request. The grant program is called the Competitive Highway Bridge Program, or CHBP. Federal funds for the program are provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024.

The City is one of three partners in Bridge Bundle 5. The other two are Dubuque County and Jackson County. The grant has now been awarded. The project is ready to move into design.

WHKS & Co. will perform the design work needed to prepare the project for bidding. The work includes a site survey, a study of water flow under the bridge, soil borings, and state and federal permits. It also includes preliminary and final plans. The contract is billed by the hour. The total fee, including expenses, cannot exceed \$122,300. Work during construction will be added later in a separate amendment.

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The new bridge will most likely be longer than the old one. A longer bridge may be needed to meet flood rules. Early plans show a bridge about 150 feet long. It will have two 11-foot driving lanes and four-foot shoulders. It will also have a 10-foot sidewalk on the south side. The final design will be set during the design phase. The road will be closed during construction. No new land will need to be bought.

Financial Considerations

The total project cost is estimated at \$2,000,000. The CHBP grant covers eighty percent of the construction cost. The City provides a twenty percent local match. The City also pays the design cost. The grant does not cover design work. The WHKS contract sets a clear, capped fee of \$122,300 for that work.

The funding source for the City's share will be set as the project moves toward bid letting in Fiscal Year 2027. Approving the design contract now does not lock in a funding source for the construction match. It does keep the design on schedule. It also protects the federal grant award.

The project is set to be bid through Iowa DOT in Fiscal Year 2027. Federal rules require the project to be under contract by September 30, 2027. The project must be paid in full by September 30, 2032. Starting design now keeps the project on track. It also protects the City's right to the grant funds.

I recommend that the Council approve Resolution No. 50-26. The resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign the engineering contract with WHKS & Co. for the 3rd Avenue SW Bridge Project, with a not-to-exceed fee of \$122,300.

Please let me know if you have questions before the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick J. Michel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mick J. Michel
City Administrator
