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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 14, 2016

COUNTY AWARDED \$500,000 GRANT FOR W61 WIDENING

The Washington County Engineer's Office is pleased to announce that the Iowa Department of Transportation has made an award of \$500,000 to Washington County to assist in making safety improvements to the Riverside Road (W61) from Spruce Avenue to Riverside. The funds awarded to Washington County are a part of a statewide effort to systematically improve safety on county roads.

In 1987, the Iowa DOT created a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) to increase traffic safety on all of Iowa's roads. This year applications were submitted by cities, counties and the Iowa DOT to compete for approximately \$8.5 million in grant funding for site specific projects, traffic control device projects or traffic safety studies. For Fiscal Year 2018 there were 55 applications from 26 political entities and Washington County was one of 38 applications that were fully funded with their request.

Washington County Engineer Jacob Thorius said, "This funding will help improve safety on the Riverside Road by widening the pavement and adding a paved shoulder with rumbles. Both the wider paved driving surface and rumbles will give drivers more time to react and correct the travel of their vehicle which will help to improve safety for the traveling public." In addition, Thorius stated "This is the second year in a row Washington County has been awarded the \$500,000 TSIP grant, the maximum allowed for the grant request, and will allow the county to work on a longer stretch of the Riverside Road."

The paving project is scheduled to begin in 2018 and may be paired with another phase of work on the Riverside Road to allow the county to get a bigger bang for their money. Additional details are available from the office of the County Engineer.

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