

### **Reconstruction of Irvinedale Drive Will Open New Development Opportunities**

Ankeny has been very successful at growing its population and employment base. That growth has required the City to reinvest in strategic areas. One of those is the Irvinedale Drive corridor on the west side of the John Deere Des Moines Works factory and the Prairie Trail development. Commuters through the corridor were outpacing the ability of SW Irvinedale Drive to safely accommodate the daily traffic on the roadway.

The City of Ankeny received a grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation to reconstruct Irvinedale Drive from SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Oralabor Road. The project will be constructed in two phases. This [map illustrates the project area and phases](#).

The first phase began this month and will involve reconstruction of the roadway with curbs, medians and turn lanes from SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Vintage Parkway/Polk City Drive. This phase will also realign the main John Deere entrance to share an intersection with Country Club Court. The second phase will be constructed in 2013 from Vintage Parkway/Polk City Drive to Oralabor Road.

When complete, the reconstructed roadway will provide access to potential new commercial and industrial development land. Future growth areas include 65 acres in Vintage Business Park at Prairie Trail, 35 acres of office development in Prairie Trail and 5 acres on the west side of Irvinedale Drive. The completed corridor includes a bike and pedestrian trail along Irvinedale Drive.

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### **City Council Renews Policy to Encourage Business Investment**

The City Council recently approved an extension of the Local Business Investment Policy through December 31, 2013. The objective of the policy is to encourage new business investment and job creation in Ankeny in this tentative period as the economy stabilizes. The policy has been a success for the first two years it has been in place. Council actions have helped support the success of 11 projects creating or retaining 600 jobs and representing over \$122 million in investment.

The renewed policy provides financial assistance for up to 10 years for businesses that are expanding in Ankeny. The level of incentives provided is based on the number and quality of new jobs created or retained and the amount of new property valuation added as a result of a project. Please [contact the Economic Development Department](#) for more information.

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### **Number of Workers for Ankeny Businesses Keeps Growing; Unemployment Remains Low**

The City of Ankeny recently received the results of the latest Central Iowa workforce study completed this spring. The total available workforce continues to grow and now stands at 413,858. Ankeny's

unemployment rate stands at 3.4% through May 2012. The estimated labor force living in Ankeny is 26,606 people.

The executive summary of the study and studies for labor availability and wages for seven specific industries are available on the [Economic Development Department website](#).

In the last two years, employment in Government and Agriculture/Forestry/Mining have decreased while the Construction and Entertainment/Recreation sector increased. The Construction sector increase between 2010 and 2012 is notable since it had fallen about 6.5% between the 2008 and 2010 studies.

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### **Ankeny Business *Fast Fact***

This month's company is a supplier of aggregate, asphalt and concrete. The company includes the local firms Des Moines Asphalt and Paving Company, American Concrete and Hallett Materials. The employees at the Ankeny location are responsible for corporate headquarter functions including equipment procurement and maintenance, accounting, human resources, sales and safety across the three states in which this company operates.

*This month's business is: [Oldcastle Materials Group Midwest](#).*

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