TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — MAY 2020

May Meeting. The Transportation Commission met by teleconference on May 12, 2020. At the 9:30 a.m. informational meeting, the Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) expects reductions in Road Use Tax Fund revenues to begin to impact the Fund in June. The DOT has estimated that revenues could be reduced by up to 25.0% in each month that is impacted. The DOT also noted that traffic volumes have slowly increased since April 10.

- **COVID-19 Impact on Operations.** The DOT has not set a date to reoccupy the DOT headquarters in Ames. The majority of DOT staff is currently working in the field.

- **Other Items Reviewed.** The Commission also reviewed proposed changes to the Traffic Safety Improvement Program that are intended to streamline the approval process for research grants. The Commission was provided a preview of the Iowa Rest Area Management Plan, for which public copies will be available soon. Lastly, the Commission reviewed efforts to market and increase the accessibility of public transit systems.

The Commission took the following actions at the 1:30 p.m. business meeting:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for 761 IAC ch. 410 (Special Mobile Equipment), 761 IAC ch. 524 (For-Hire Intrastate Motor Carrier Authority), and 761 IAC ch. 604 (License Examination).

- **RISE.** Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy (RISE) is a program created in 1985 with the purpose of promoting economic development in Iowa through the establishment, construction, improvement, and maintenance of roads and streets. The Commission approved two RISE grants to local governments. Grants were approved to the following political subdivisions:
  - **Calhoun County:** $261,000 in State grants for a $522,000 project that will assist in the construction of a new roadway to provide access to warehousing and industrial locations.
  - **Farley:** $477,000 in grants to the city of Farley to construct a roadway to provide access to 41 acres of industrial development.

- **Transportation Improvement Program 2021-2025.** The Commission was formally presented with the Transportation Improvement Program for 2021-2025. The Commission is expected to approve the program in June. A draft of the program and prior plans are available on the [DOT website](http://www.legis.iowa.gov).

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