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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 20, 2020



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### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — OCTOBER 2020

**October Meeting.** The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on Monday, October 12, 2020. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that sources of revenue are approaching 80.0% of prepandemic levels; however, aviation is at only 35.0% of prepandemic levels. Vehicle sales were down 20.0% in FY 2020 compared to FY 2019, resulting in reduced revenue from new registration fees. Fuel tax revenue is also down as a result of reduced travel throughout the State, while annual vehicle registration fees are down slightly as well. The Commission expects to also see decreased revenue in FY 2021 due to COVID-19.
- **Extension.** The Commission received information that the federal [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#) was extended to September 30, 2021.

The business meeting was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The Commission took the following action:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for 761 IAC [25](#) (Competition with Private Enterprise), 761 IAC [480](#) (Abandoned Vehicles), 761 IAC [602](#) (Classes of Driver's Licenses), and 761 IAC [636](#) (Motorized Bicycle Rider Education).
- **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 one RISE grant for Sioux City. RISE funding totaling \$671,000 was approved to pave approximately 2,700 feet of Andrew Avenue, granting better access to new industrial developments.
- **Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program.** [The Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program](#) participates in the cost of safety improvements at highway-railroad grade crossings. These funds are used to install new crossing signal devices, to upgrade existing signals, and to provide low-cost improvements, such as increased sight distance, widened crossings, increased signal lens size, or crossing closures. The Commission approved \$5.7 million in funding for this Program for FY 2022.
- **Highway Railroad Crossing Surface Repair Program.** [The Highway Railroad Crossing Surface Repair Program](#) participates in the cost to rebuild highway-railroad grade crossings. This Program assists in maintaining safe and smooth crossing surfaces at highway-railroad crossings. The Commission approved the annual expenditures from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) for this Program.
- **Federal Transit Bus Replacement Discretionary Fund.** This is a Federal Transit Administration Program created to assist in the financing of buses and bus facility capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing, or leasing bus-related facilities. The Commission approved the use of the \$5.5 million that is awarded to the State for this Program.

**More information.** Additional information is available on the DOT website at: [iowadot.gov](http://iowadot.gov)

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