
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 13, 2020



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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — NOVEMBER 2020

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on November 10, 2020. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that rail carloads continue to stay flat. Grain shipments are the highest they have been since 2007, but energy shipments such as coal, oil, and frack sand continue to drop. If these energy shipments are taken out of consideration, rail traffic is similar to 2019 levels. Commercial airport services are still low at 40% of 2019 passenger levels. Vehicular traffic is relatively flat but is still 8% to 10% of 2019 levels, although freight traffic has remained equivalent to 2019 levels. The lessened amount of travel has had a slight impact on the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) since fuel excise taxes accounted for 42% of FY 2020 funding. New registration fees revenue is rebounding due to the higher price of new vehicles. This has helped to offset the lower number of new vehicles sold in 2020, leading to generally no reduction in revenue compared to 2019. Annual vehicle registration revenue is down slightly, but there is virtually no COVID-19 impact on this revenue at this time.
- **Traffic Safety Improvement Program.** The DOT gave an overview on the Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP), which has annual funding of about \$7.0 million. The DOT has received 48 TSIP applications equating to \$15.0 million in funding requests. The DOT is recommending \$7.5 million in funding for TSIP for FY 2022.
- **Integrated Corridor Management.** An update was given on the Des Moines Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project. This is a DOT project that focuses on improving safety, mobility, travel time reliability, and accessibility to the roadways around the Des Moines metro.

The business meeting was also held on November 10, 2020. The Commission took the following action:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for [761 IAC 11](#) (Waivers of Rules), [761 IAC 112](#) (Primary Road Access Control), [761 IAC 605](#) (License Issuance), and [761 IAC 630](#) (Nonoperator's Identification).
- **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 RISE applications for the cities of Bondurant and Altoona were deferred to a future date.

Next Meeting. The next Transportation Commission meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2020.

More information. Additional information is available on the DOT website at: iowadot.gov

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