
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2020

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on December 8, 2020. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** Commercial airport services are still low at 35.0% to 40.0% of 2019 passenger levels. Vehicular traffic fell slightly in November to 15.0% below 2019 levels, although freight traffic has remained equivalent to 2019 levels.
- **FY 2022 and 2023 Budget Presentation.** The DOT gave a presentation on budget requests for FY 2022 and 2023. For FY 2022 and 2023, the DOT estimates that 86.0% of its funding will come from the Primary Road Fund (PRF), while 14.0% will come from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). The DOT is requesting \$397.9 million in FY 2022, which is a 0.8% decrease compared to estimated FY 2021, and \$398.8 million in FY 2023, which is a 0.5% decrease compared to estimated FY 2021.
- **Highway Division.** The DOT is asking for an increase of \$4.1 million in FY 2022 and another increase of \$1.9 million in FY 2023, both of which are in the Highway Division. These increases are due to an increase in staffing, additional funding for road salt, a new ice blade for snow plows, funding for tasers, in-car video systems, audible attenuators, portable rumble strips, speed feedback trailers, and to help replace medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The budget request is asking for an additional nine FTEs in both FY 2022 and 2023 in the Highway Division to achieve its five-year plan of increasing the Division's workforce by 45 through FY 2025. The goal of these FTEs is to create a better balance of outside consultants as well as internal staff to increase efficiency and maximize construction program dollars. The plan is estimated to save \$9.5 million.
- **Other Department Budget Requests.**
 - The budget request reduces the funding required for the replacement of equipment by \$2.3 million for FY 2022, and reduces funding required by \$1.3 million in FY 2023.
 - The budget request reduces worker's compensation premiums by \$762,000 for FY 2022.
 - The budget request increases funds for the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) utility services by \$427,000 for FY 2022.
 - The budget request increases the funding for the reimbursement of State Auditor fees by \$20,000 for FY 2022, and an increase of \$21,000 in FY 2023.
 - The DOT is updating items in its capital budget requests by eliminating the roof replacements, northwest wing utility improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, utility improvements, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) improvements, and field facility deferred maintenance items. These items are being replaced by and added into the rest area facility maintenance, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) field facilities maintenance, Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) field facilities maintenance, facility major maintenance and enhancements, and facility routine maintenance and preservation items. The DOT plans on these changes helping to create a broader capital program that will

allow it to be more flexible with maintenance and repairs, and is requesting \$11.2 million for FY 2022 and 2023, which is a decrease of \$4.1 million compared to estimated FY 2021.

- **Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).** The DOT also presented its budget requests for its modal program items, which include: commercial service vertical infrastructure, general aviation vertical infrastructure, state recreational trails, the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, and the Railroad Revolving Loan and Grant Program. These items typically get their funding from RIIF, and the DOT is requesting \$8.9 million for both FY 2022 and FY 2023, which is an increase of \$5.2 million compared to estimated FY 2021.
- **Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program.** The Commission was given an overview of Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP), which was created in 1994 to award funds to projects with the highest potential for reducing transportation-related congestion and air pollution. The DOT received more than \$10.9 million in funding requests for projects, and provided a list of recommended projects to receive funding.
- **Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).** The Commission was given an overview on TAP, which is the current version of the Transportation Enhancement program that was created in 1991. The purpose of the program is to assist in the creation of trails, safe routes to school projects, and vegetation management, among others. The DOT received \$1.3 million in requested funding for projects, and made recommendations on projects to fund.
- **Federal Recreational Trail Program.** The Commission was given an overview of the Federal Recreational Trail Program, which is a federal program created in 1991 to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. The DOT reported that \$5.3 million was requested in funding for projects, and recommended projects to be awarded funding.

The business meeting was also held on December 8, 2020. The Commission took the following action:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for 761 IAC 401 (Special Registration Plates) and 761 IAC 405 (Salvage).
- **Traffic Safety Improvement Program.** This program was created in 1987 to increase traffic safety on Iowa's roadways. The funds are for use on city, county, or state roads through an annual application process. The Commission approved \$7.5 million in funding for FY 2022 for projects from Iowa's Traffic Safety Improvement Program.
- **Intercity Bus Program.** This program supports intercity bus services that include stops at non-urban locations. The Commission approved funding for Calendar Year (CY) 2021.
- **Transfer of Jurisdiction of Old U.S. 30.** The Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction of parts of Old Highway 30 to Linn and Cedar counties, as well as the cities of Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

Next Meeting. The next Transportation Commission meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021, and will be held via teleconference.

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

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