
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

January 22, 2021



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — JANUARY 2021

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on January 13, 2021. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** Although there was an increase during the holidays, commercial airport services are still low at 35.0% to 40.0% of 2019 passenger levels. Although freight traffic has remained roughly equivalent to 2019 levels, passenger traffic is approximately 10.0% to 15.0% below 2019 levels.
- **RISE (Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy) Fund Applications.** The Commission was given recommendations on three RISE applications:
 - To construct approximately 1,680 feet of Ziegler Drive in Altoona, with a recommended award of \$1.0 million.
 - To construct approximately 1,514 feet of 9th Avenue NW in Farley, with a recommended award of \$380,000.
 - Construction of turn lanes and a roundabout on 6th Street SW in Cedar Rapids, with a recommended award of \$3.0 million.
- **RISE Survey.** The Commission was presented with the results of a survey that was taken on the RISE program in 2018. Participants of the survey included cities, county engineers, and economic developers. The survey consisted of a series of questions asking if the participant was aware of the RISE program, if they have adequate RISE-eligible vacant lots, if there were difficulties in the application process for RISE, and if they felt RISE eligibility should be expanded for other types of development. Slightly more than half of all those that responded were aware of the RISE program, and half of the cities that responded had a population of less than 845. While 81.0% of those who responded felt the RISE program was effective, the 19.0% who felt it was ineffective stated the following reasons: it was good for larger towns but not small towns, it was difficult to find businesses that fit into the program, the program requirements are difficult, or they were unfamiliar with the program.
- **Transportation Asset Management (TAM).** An overview was given on bridge preservation and maintenance. The overview included what is done to maintain and extend the life of bridges across the State and the current condition of Iowa's bridges. The reported typical bridge costs are: \$1.5 million to \$3.0 million to replace a bridge, \$250,000 to \$1.3 million to rehabilitate a bridge, and \$2.3 million to \$3.5 million to build a new bridge. The Department of Transportation reported that of bridges on the primary road system, there are 2,024 bridges in good condition, 2,119 bridges in fair condition, and 35 bridges in poor condition.

The business meeting was also held on January 13, 2021. The Commission took the following action:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for [761 IAC 4](#) (Public Records and Fair Information Practices), [761 IAC 121](#) (Adopt-A-Highway Program), [761 IAC 150](#) (Improvements and Maintenance on Primary Road Extensions), [761 IAC 131](#) (Signing on Primary

Roads), [761 IAC 620](#) (OWI and Implied Consent), and [761 IAC 511](#) (Special Permits for Operation and Movement of Vehicles and Loads of Excess Size and Weight).

- **RISE Fund Awards.** The Commission approved the award of RISE funding for Altoona, Farley, and Cedar Rapids projects.
- **Program Funding Recommendations.** The Commission approved the recommendations for program funding for the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program, Federal Recreational Trails Program, and Iowa's Clean Air Attainment.

Next Meeting. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021, and will be held via teleconference.

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Doc ID 1209390