
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

February 16, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — FEBRUARY 2021

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on February 9, 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 two RISE applications:
 - To construct approximately 1,000 feet of 15th Street NW in Sioux Center, with a recommended award of \$390,000.
 - To construct approximately 600 feet of 250th Avenue NW in Pella, with a recommended award of \$244,000.
- **Transportation Asset Management (TAM).** An overview was given on pavement management that provided statistics as well as forecasts of future pavement needs. The primary road system includes approximately 25,000 lane miles of pavement, with 16.0% of those miles being comprised of interstate roadways. Approximately 50.0% of the system's original pavement is more than 55 years old, and approximately 30.0% is more than 70 years old. Maintenance and preservation treatments can cost \$3,000 to \$10,000 per year, rehabilitations can cost \$25,000 per year, and reconstructions can cost \$35,000 per year.
- **Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS).** An overview was given of the LIFTS program, and a recommendation was given by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on an application to fund. The project is the first phase of a freight station near Council Bluffs, to which the DOT recommends \$1.5 million be awarded.
- **Upper Mississippi Inland Waterway Infrastructure.** An overview was given by the DOT on the Mooring Cell Pilot Project, created after a 2019 study that developed investment alternatives to enhance the upper Mississippi inland waterway infrastructure. Mooring cells would be used to tie off barges waiting to proceed through a lock and dam system. These mooring cells would cost approximately \$2.0 million. Currently, the DOT is planning on creating only one mooring cell to test its efficacy.

The business meeting was also held on February 9, 2021. The Commission took the following action:

- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission approved proposed rulemakings for [761 IAC 118](#) (Logo Signing), [761 IAC 136](#) (Lighting), [761 IAC 180](#) (Public Improvement Quotation Process for Governmental Entities for Vertical Infrastructure), [761 IAC 602](#) (Classes of Driver's Licenses), [761 IAC 604](#) (License Examination), [761 IAC 605](#) (License Issuance), [761 IAC 607](#) (Commercial Driver Licensing), [761 IAC 615](#) (Sanctions), [761 IAC 500](#) (Interstate Registration and Operation of Vehicles), [761 IAC 920](#) (State Transit Assistance), [761 IAC 923](#) (Capital Match Revolving Loan Fund), and [761 IAC 924](#) (Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program).

- **RISE Fund Awards.** The Commission approved the award of RISE funding for the Sioux Center and Pella projects.
- **Program Funding Recommendations.** The Commission approved the preapplications for FY 2022 Federal Aviation Administration funding and amendments to the FY 2021 State Aviation Program Commercial Vertical Infrastructure program.
- **Transfer of Jurisdiction.** The Commission approved the transfer of old U.S. Highway 67 in Bettendorf from the State to the City of Bettendorf.

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

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