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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 24, 2021



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### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — MAY 2021

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on May 11, 2021. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **COVID-19 Impact on Transportation Funding.** Commercial service airports were at 60.0% of March 2019 passenger count. April's numbers were not yet available. Road traffic has returned to approximately the same level as March and April 2019. While there has been a decrease in revenue from fuel taxes due to lower traffic levels during the pandemic, most of this loss of revenue has been mitigated by an increase in vehicle sales and federal aid.
- **Federal Aid Breakdown.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) gave a breakdown of federal aid received by the Department that included:
  - **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** - \$107.0 million to Iowa transit agencies and \$70.5 million to Iowa airports.
  - **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)** - \$121.9 million to Iowa highways and bridges, \$26.5 million to Iowa transit agencies, and \$13.4 million to Iowa airports.
  - **American Rescue Plan (ARP)** - \$61.1 million to Iowa transit agencies. Iowa airports will also receive funding from this plan, but the final numbers are still unknown.
- **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Fund Applications.** The Commission was given recommendations on four RISE applications:
  - The construction of intersection improvements at Merle Hay Road and Johnston Drive in Johnston, with a recommended award of approximately \$1.1 million.
  - Construction of approximately 1,395 feet of new roadway in Pleasant Hill, with a recommended award of approximately \$620,000.
  - Construction of approximately 1,025 feet of Lake Street in Waterloo, with a recommended award of approximately \$290,000.
  - Potential improvements to Hillandale Road, Research Parkway, Northwest Boulevard, 76th Street and North Division Street in Davenport, with recommended award to be determined.
- **Transit Capital Programs.** The DOT gave an update on capital funds available for grants to bus facilities in the State, with total funds available equating to approximately \$7.7 million.
- **Automated Transportation Readiness Overview.** The DOT gave an overview on automated transportation, and the Department's plan to prepare Iowa for the possible future use of automated driving technology.

The business meeting was also held on May 11, 2021. The Commission took the following action:

- **RISE Fund Awards.** The Commission approved the award of RISE funding for the Pleasant Hill, Waterloo, Johnston, and Davenport projects.
- **Iowa Transportation Improvement Program Draft.** The Commission was presented with the draft of the DOT's FY 2022-2026 Iowa Transportation Improvement Program. This Program documents investments in Iowa's multimodal transportation system covering aviation, public transit, railroads,

trails, and highways. In FY 2022-2026, the DOT estimates approximately \$3.6 billion will be available for highway construction and right-of-way use. The Program includes \$2.8 billion through FY 2022-2026 to modernize Iowa's highways, as well as enhance highway safety features. In FY 2022, the DOT has estimated \$754.7 million will be available for highway program projects. The Program also includes \$1.2 billion over FY 2022-2026 to improve the conditions of the State's bridge infrastructure. The current multi-year federal transportation authorization bill is the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act that was signed into law on December 4, 2015. The FAST Act is set to expire on September 30, 2021. The Commission will take action on the draft at the June Commission meeting. The draft of the five-year plan can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting.** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021, in Oskaloosa.

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