
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

January 3, 2022



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2021

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on December 14, 2021. The Commission discussed the following items:

- **Warning Lights on Vehicles.** The Commission proposed Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter [135](#) on the use of warning lights by vehicles or equipment that are not owned and operated by the Department when used in road work zones. Vehicles or equipment that are not owned and operated by the Department will now be allowed to use flashing white lights. The Department expects this change will make work zones more consistent and safer across the state.
- **COVID-19 Transportation Funding Impact Update.** This month, Iowa economic activity is lower than last month, which the DOT cites is mostly due to inflation. Economic activity for this month is close to the prepandemic levels. Overall, the Iowa economy is recovering faster than that of surrounding states in the Midwest, and is close to making a full recovery from the pandemic. The percentage change in traffic this year compared to the previous year is also almost at prepandemic levels.
- **FY 2023 DOT Budget Presentation.** An increase in Department costs was found due to inflation and aging equipment.
- **Infrastructure Bill Status.** The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed by the President on November 15, 2021. The Iowa DOT will review and assess the IIJA on December 15, 2021, to January 16, 2022, in order to present to the Commission in February.
- **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Fund Applications.** The Commission was given recommendations on the approval of three RISE applications:
 - An immediate opportunity in Polk County.
 - An immediate opportunity in Davenport.
 - A project settlement in West Des Moines.
- **Traffic Safety Improvement Program Recommendations.** The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 Traffic Safety recommendations presented at the November 2021 Commission meeting.
- **Intercity Bus Grant Programs.** The Commission reviewed the Calendar Year 2022 Intercity Bus Grant Program Recommendations that were also presented at the November 2021 Commission meeting.

The business meeting was also held on December 14, 2021. The Commission took the following action:

- **IAC Chapter 135 — Warning Lights on Vehicles.** The Commission approved IAC Chapter 135 for the usage of warning lights on vehicles that are not owned or operated by the department in work zones.
- **RISE Fund Awards.** The Commission approved the award of RISE funding for Polk County, Davenport, and West Des Moines Projects.
- **Traffic Safety Improvement Program Recommendations.** The Commission approved the Fiscal Year 2023 Traffic Safety recommendations.
- **Intercity Bus Grant Programs.** The Commission approved the Calendar Year 2022 Intercity Bus Program.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022, in Ames.

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