
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 30, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2024

The Transportation Commission met for an informal workshop on December 10, 2024, in Ames. The Commission discussed the following:

- **Department Welcome.** Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Scott Marler discussed the current number of road fatalities in Iowa this year, which is currently 324. That is lower than around this time last year.
- **ARRC Rules Overview.** The Commission received an overview of administrative rules that are being readopted by the DOT under Executive Order 10. The following chapters are being readopted:
 - [761 IAC 4](#), Public Records and Fair Information Practices
 - [761 IAC 13](#), Contested Cases
 - [761 IAC 105](#), Holiday Rest Stops
 - [761 IAC 111](#), Real Property Acquisition and Relocation Assistance
 - [761 IAC 112](#), Primary Highway Access Control
 - [761 IAC 116](#), Junkyard Control
 - [761 IAC 117](#), Outdoor Advertising
 - [761 IAC 118](#), Logo Signing
 - [761 IAC 119](#), Tourist-Oriented Directional Signing
 - [761 IAC 410](#), Special Mobile Equipment
 - [761 IAC 540](#), Transportation Network Companies
- **Transportation Trends.** The DOT provided the following updates:
 - Railcar load statistics will be provided on a quarterly basis instead of a monthly basis. U.S. railcar loads in the third quarter of calendar year 2024 increased by 0.8% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.
 - Monthly passenger counts at Iowa's eight commercial service airports are currently higher year over year, with the October 2024 monthly passenger counts higher than October 2023 counts.
 - Monthly State vehicle miles of travel for October 2024 were higher than those of October 2023.
- **2024 Highway Program Balance Report.** The Commission received an update on the FY 2024 Highway Program balance. The Program balance in November 2024 was \$-4.4 million.
- **Commission Tours.** The Commission heard proposals for commission tours in calendar year (CY) 2025. The proposed tour locations are Sioux Center, Corning, Des Moines, and Clinton.
- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Traffic Safety Improvement Program.** The Commission received funding recommendations for the Traffic Safety Improvement Program. Funding categories are split into three categories: site-specific improvements, traffic control devices, and studies and outreach. The funding recommendations for each category are as follows:
 - **Site-Specific Improvements.** Twenty applications were received for site-specific improvement projects. The DOT recommended grants totaling \$7.6 million.
 - **Traffic Control Devices.** Fourteen applications were received for traffic control device projects. The DOT recommended grants for four applications totaling \$498,000.
 - **Studies and Outreach.** One application was received for a studies and outreach project. The DOT recommended a grant totaling \$500,000.
- **Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Intercity Bus Grant Program.** The Commission received funding recommendations for the CY 2025 Intercity Bus Grant Program. Total available funding is \$3.5 million.

- **Burlington Trailways.** The total cost of the project is \$2.4 million. The DOT recommended a grant of \$1.4 million.
- **Greyhound Lines.** The total cost of the project is \$854,000. The DOT recommended a grant of \$66,000.
- **Jefferson Lines.** The total cost of the project is \$3.7 million. The DOT recommended a grant of \$690,000.
- **City of Fort Dodge.** This project is a marketing project and not a bus line. The total cost of the project is \$9,000. The DOT recommended a grant of \$8,000.
- **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Program.** The Commission was informed of a local development recommendation. The recommendation is sponsored by the city of Waterloo. The project is for construction of approximately 2,600 feet of Dakota Drive and approximately 470 feet of Wolfe Avenue. The project's total cost is \$3.8 million. The DOT recommended providing a grant of \$2.3 million, or 60.5%, of the total project cost.
- **Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program.** The purpose of Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) is to support projects with the highest potential for reducing transportation-related congestion and air pollution. The Commission received an overview of recommendations for federal funding by the DOT. The list of applications are as follows:
 - **SE 15th Street (U.S. 69) Corridor Adaptive Signal Control,** sponsored by the city of Des Moines. The total project cost is \$2.6 million. The recommended funding is \$2.1 million, or 80.7%.
 - **Enterprise Commute Vanpool,** sponsored by Region 6 Planning Commission. The total project cost is \$144,000. The recommended funding is \$114,200, or 79.3%.
 - **Hammond Avenue and Ridgeway Avenue Roundabout,** sponsored by the city of Waterloo. The total project cost is \$1.2 million. The recommended funding is \$700,000, or 58.3%.
- **Federal Recreational Trails Program.** The Federal Recreational Trails program's purpose is to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. The Commission received an overview of recommendations for funding by the DOT. The list of applications are as follows:
 - **Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment,** sponsored by Iowa State Snowmobile Association. The total project cost is \$325,000. The recommended funding is \$260,000, or 80.0%.
 - **Off-Highway Vehicle Park Equipment,** sponsored by Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The total project cost is \$340,000. The recommended funding is \$272,000, or 80%.
 - **Estherville River Recreation Enhancement Project,** sponsored by the city of Estherville. The total project cost is \$1.3 million. The recommended funding is \$650,000 or 50.0%.
 - **Iowa River's Edge Trail Bridge Improvement,** sponsored by Hardin County. The total project cost is \$548,000. The recommended funding is \$438,500, or 80.0%.
- **Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.** The Commission received an overview of recommendations for federal funding by the DOT. The applications recommended are as follows:
 - **Vine Street Safe Routes to School Project,** sponsored by the City of Hartford. The total project cost is \$917,000. The recommended funding is \$733,000 or 79.9%.
 - **Tama-Toledo Safe Routes to School Improvements,** sponsored by the City of Tama. The total project cost is \$753,000. The recommended funding is \$602,000, or 79.9%.
 - **Iowa Safe Routes Partnership,** sponsored by Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments. The total project cost is \$354,000. The recommended funding is \$283,000, or 79.9%.
 - **15th Street Safe Routes to School Sidewalk,** sponsored by the City of Marion. The total project cost is \$680,000. The recommended funding is \$544,000, or 80.0%.
 - **Plum Street Safe Routes to School Project,** sponsored by the City of Tipton. The total project cost is \$290,000. The recommended funding is \$231,000, or 79.7%.
 - **West Clay Street Trail Extension Over I-35,** sponsored by the City of Oceola. The total project cost is \$930,000. The recommended funding is \$740,000, or 79.6%.
 - **U.S. 6, Iowa 1, and Riverside Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities,** sponsored by Iowa City. The total project cost is \$675,000. The recommended funding is \$540,000, or 80.0%.
 - **UNI Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management,** sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center. The total project cost is \$436,000. The recommended funding is \$349,000, or 80.0%.

- **Little River Scenic Pathway Extension Phase Two**, sponsored by Decatur County Conservation Board. The total project cost is \$453,000. The recommended funding is \$70,000, or 15.5%.
- **Five-Year Program — Interstate Plan**. The Commission received a draft overview of the DOT five-year program from FY 2025 through FY 2029.
- **Iowa Commercial Aviation Infrastructure Fund**. The Commission received an update on all the projects that were approved reimbursable grant funding in 2022 from the Commercial Aviation Infrastructure Fund through federal American Rescue Plan Act allocations. The project updates are as follows:
 - **Des Moines International Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$58.8 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$34.7 million.
 - **Eastern Iowa Airport (Cedar Rapids)**. The total grant awarded is \$28.4 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$14.8 million.
 - **Sioux Gateway Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$3.1 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$1.8 million.
 - **Dubuque Regional Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$2.8 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$2.6 million.
 - **Waterloo Regional Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$2.2 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$998,000.
 - **Fort Dodge Regional Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$1.6 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$1.6 million.
 - **Mason City Municipal Airport**. The total grant awarded is \$1.6 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$1.5 million.
 - **Southeast Iowa Regional Airport (Burlington)**. The total grant awarded is \$1.6 million. The total reimbursement claims to date is \$1.3 million.

The Commission held a business meeting on December 10, 2024, in Ames. The Commission took the following actions:

- **Approved Minutes**. The Commission approved the minutes from the last meeting on November 12, 2024.
- **ARRC Rules Overview**. The Commission approved the readoption of all ARRC rules.
- **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy**. The Commission approved the funding recommendation of \$2.3 million or 60.0% for construction of approximately 2,600 feet of Dakota Drive and approximately 470 feet of Wolfe Avenue.
- **FY 2026 Traffic Safety Improvement Program**. The Commission approved funding recommendations for the Traffic Safety Improvement Program.
- **CY 2025 Intercity Bus Grant Program**. The Commission approved funding recommendations for the CY 2025 Intercity Bus Grant Program.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 21, 2025, in Ames.

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Doc ID 1518125