

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

July 22, 2025



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — JULY 2025

The Transportation Commission (Commission) met for an informal workshop on July 8, 2025, in Ames. The Commission discussed the following topics:

- **Department Welcome.** Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Scott Marler gave updates to the Commission on the following two items involving the DOT:
  - The 2027 DOT long-range plans. The [State Transportation Plan](#) was last approved in May 2022. The DOT intends to have a public input meeting and will have a booth at the Iowa State Fair to allow the public to express what they believe the DOT should focus on.
  - The DOT purchase of a new patch truck. The truck will allow DOT employees to patch roads safely in an enclosed cabin. The truck was purchased for approximately \$300,000 in FY 2025. The DOT intends to purchase two more patch trucks in FY 2026.
- **Commission Legal Overview.** Shean Fletchall, Special Assistant Attorney General, discussed the role the Office of the Attorney General plays within the DOT. Mr. Fletchall explained that the Office of the Attorney General handles all legal matters for the DOT, including ensuring compliance with State laws such as hands-free driving and automatic traffic enforcement.
- **Review of Commission Guidebook.** The Commission received a review of its new guidebook, which includes the biographies of the Commission members, the organizational chart of the DOT, and the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and the DOT.
- **Administrative Rules.** The Commission received an overview of the three following administrative rule chapters that will be rescinded and readopted per Executive Order 10.
  - [761 IAC 511](#), Special Permits for Operation and Movement of Vehicles and Loads of Excess Size and Weight.
  - [761 IAC 524](#), For-Hire Intrastate Motor Carrier Authority.
  - [761 IAC 529](#), For-Hire Interstate Motor Carrier Authority.
- **Transportation Trends.** The DOT provided the following updates:
  - Future railcar load statistics will be provided on a quarterly basis instead of a monthly basis. U.S. railcar loads in the first quarter of calendar year 2025 increased by 2.3% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.
  - Monthly State commercial service airport passenger counts in May 2025 were higher than those of May 2024.
  - Monthly State vehicle miles of travel for May 2025 were higher than those of May 2024.
- **2025 Highway Program Balance Report.** The Commission received an update on the FY 2025 Highway Program balance. The Program balance in June 2025 was \$53.7 million. This is an increase of \$100,000 compared to May 2025.
- **August Commission Tour Preview.** The Commission will be doing a tour around Corning, Iowa, for the August meeting. The tour will go along IA-34 to Rukes, then north along I-25 toward Creston. The Commission will stop at a MidAmerican Energy wind panel and will tour Greenhill to look at the damage and repairs from the tornadoes last year.
- **Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.** The Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program is used for on-road and off-road nonmotorized trail facilities, safe routes for nondrivers, conversion of abandoned rail corridors for trails, preservation/rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, and infrastructure-related or noninfrastructure-related Safe Routes to School projects. Currently, the Program has \$6.5 million available for funding projects. The list of projects that applied for funding is as follows:

- **Iowa River's Edge Trail Bridges and Great American Rail Trail Connector**, sponsored by Marshalltown. The recommended funding amount is \$2.0 million or 60.0% of the total project cost.
- **Waukee Regional Trail Connection and Safety Improvement Projects**, sponsored by Waukee. The recommended funding amount is \$2.0 million, or 36.0% of the total project cost.
- **Emmons Street Pedestrian Bridge Over I-380**, sponsored by Hiawatha. The recommended funding amount is \$792,000, or 75.0% of the total project cost.
- **Duck Creek Trail Underpass at the Division Street**, sponsored by Davenport. The recommended funding amount is \$205,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
- **Iowa River's Edge Trail Paving from Gifford to Union**, sponsored by Hardin County. The recommended funding amount is \$1.2 million, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
- **State Aviation Program.** The State Aviation Program awards three grants for airport construction and maintenance, including the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure (GAVI), and Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure (CSVI). A full list of applicants can be found on the DOT [website](#).
  - **Airport Improvement Program.** The AIP grant received 45 applications. Total funding for the AIP is \$5.9 million. Of the 45 applicants, 25 are recommended for funding by the DOT.
  - **General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure.** The GAVI grant received 10 applications. Total funding for GAVI is \$1.0 million. Of the 10 applicants, 4 are recommended for funding.
  - **Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure.** The CSVI grant received eight applications. Total funding for CSVI is \$1.9 million. All eight applicants are recommended for funding.
- **Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program.** The Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding grants for 35 eligible public transit systems in Iowa. Total available funding for the Program is \$1.4 million. The list of recommended funding is as follows:
  - **Maintenance Facility Expansion and Modernization**, sponsored by the University of Iowa, CAMBUS. The recommended funding amount is \$566,000, or 4.7% of the total project cost.
  - **In-Ground Hoist Replacement**, sponsored by Ames Transit Agency, CyRide. The recommended funding amount is \$566,000, or 75.5% of the total project cost.
  - **Revolving Door Replacement**, sponsored by Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority. The recommended funding amount is \$120,000, or 78.1% of the total project cost.
  - **Passenger Elevator Replacement**, sponsored by Sioux City Transit. The recommended funding amount is \$163,000, or 54.3% of the total project cost.
- **Secondary Road Fund Distribution Committee.** The Commission received a presentation from Stu Anderson, Director of the Transportation Development Division, and Brian Moore, Executive Director of the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau, on the Secondary Road Fund Distribution Committee and the formula the Secondary Road Fund Distribution Committee uses when determining allocations to individual counties.

The Commission held a business meeting on July 8, 2025, in Ames. The Commission took the following actions:

- **Approved Minutes.** The Commission approved the minutes from the last meeting on June 10, 2025.
- **Administrative Rules Overview.** The Commission approved the readoption of the three administrative rule chapters.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 11, 2025, and August 12, 2025, in Corning.

LSA Staff Contact: Garry Martin (515.281.4611) [garry.martin@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:garry.martin@legis.iowa.gov)