
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — AUGUST 2025

The Transportation Commission (Commission) met for an informal workshop on August 11, 2025, in Corning. The Commission discussed the following topics:

- **Commission Input.** Commission Vice Chair Bill Anderson commented on the tour that the commission attended in Corning, Iowa, thanking the District 5 staff for putting the tour together.
- **Directors Welcome.** Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Scott Marler gave comments about a corridor preservation zone along U.S. Highway 20. Director Marler also gave an update on the Lansing bridge replacement project on Iowa Highway 9 and the DOT presence at the Iowa State Fair.
- **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Rules.** The Commission received an overview of the five following administrative rule chapters that will be rescinded and readopted per Executive Order 10:
 - [761 Iowa Administrative Code \(IAC\) 135](#), Warning Lights on Vehicles or Equipment Not Owned and Operated by the Department When Used in Road Work Zones.
 - [761 IAC 505](#), Interstate Motor Vehicle Fuel Licenses and Permits.
 - [761 IAC 602](#), Classes of Driver's Licenses.
 - [761 IAC 604](#), License Examination.
 - [761 IAC 607](#), Commercial Driver Licensing.
- **Washington, D.C., Trip.** The Commission will travel to Washington, D.C., in September. The Commission plans to meet with Congressional delegations, U.S. DOT officials, and engineers to discuss federal transportation support and funds.
- 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 second quarter of calendar year 2025 increased by 0.8% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.
 - Monthly commercial service airport passenger counts in June 2025 were increased compared to June 2024.
 - Monthly State vehicle miles of travel for June 2025 increased compared to June 2024.
- **2025 Highway Program Balance Report.** The Commission received an update on the FY 2025 Highway Program balance. The Program balance in July 2025 was \$65.1 million. This is an increase of \$11.4 million compared to June 2025.
- **State Aviation Program.** The State Aviation Program awarded three grants for airport construction and maintenance: the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure (GAVI), and Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure (CSVV) grants. A full list of applicants is available on the DOT [website](#).
 - **Airport Improvement Program.** The DOT received 45 applications. In FY 2026, a total of \$5.9 million is available for the AIP program. Of the 45 applicants, 25 are recommended for funding by the DOT.
 - **General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure.** The DOT received 10 applications. Total available funding for GAVI in FY 2026 is \$1.0 million. Of the 10 applicants, 4 are recommended for funding.

- **Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure.** The DOT received eight applications for CSVI grants. In FY 2026, a total of \$1.9 million is available for CSVI grants. All eight applicants are recommended for funding.
- **Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program.** The Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants for 35 eligible public transit systems in Iowa. In FY 2026, a total of \$1.4 million is available for the Program. The list of recommended funding is as follows:
 - **Maintenance Facility Expansion and Modernization,** sponsored by the University of Iowa CAMBUS. The recommended grant is \$566,000, or 4.7% of the total project cost.
 - **In-Ground Hoist Replacement,** sponsored by Ames Transit Agency CyRide. The recommended grant is \$566,000, or 75.5% of the total project cost.
 - **Revolving Door Replacement,** sponsored by Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority. The recommended grant is \$120,000, or 78.1% of the total project cost.
 - **Passenger Elevator Replacement,** sponsored by Sioux City Transit. The recommended grant is \$163,000, or 54.3% of the total project cost.
- **Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.** The Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program is used for on-road and offroad nonmotorized trail facilities, safe routes for nondrivers, conversion of abandoned rail corridors for trails, preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, and infrastructure-related or noninfrastructure-related Safe Routes to School projects. As of this meeting, 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 grant 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 grant is \$2.0 million, or 36.0% of the total project cost.
 - **Emmons Street Pedestrian Bridge Over Interstate 380,** sponsored by Hiawatha. The recommended grant is \$792,000, or 75.0% of the total project cost.
 - **Duck Creek Trail Underpass at Division Street,** sponsored by Davenport. The recommended grant 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 grant is \$1.2 million, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
- **Transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of U.S. Highway 61 in Louisa County.** The DOT District 5 reached an agreement with Louisa County to transfer 1.5 miles of U.S. Highway 61 to the county.
- **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Transit Program.** The FFY 2025 Transit Program provides funding to states and transit agencies through a statutory formula to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Funding totaling \$8.7 million is available that will allow 16 public transit systems to be able to purchase 40 vehicles.

The Commission held a business meeting on August 12, 2025, in Corning. The Commission took the following actions:

- **Approved Minutes.** The Commission approved the minutes from the last meeting on July 8, 2025.
- **Commission Guidebook.** The Commission approved the Commission guidebook.
- **Administrative Rules Overview.** The Commission approved the readoption of the five administrative rule chapters.
- **Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.** The Commission approved the recommendations for Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.
- **FY 2026 State Aviation Program.** The Commission approved the recommendations for the FY 2026 State Aviation Program.
- **Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program.** The Commission approved the recommendations for the Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program.
- **Transfer of Jurisdiction of a portion of U.S. Highway 61.** The Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction of 1.5 miles of U.S. Highway 61 in Louisa County.

The Commission held a public input meeting on August 12, 2025, in Corning. The Commission heard from the following:

- City of Corning.
- Southern Iowa Council of Governments.
- Metropolitan Area Planning Agency.
- Southwest Iowa Planning Council.
- Pottawattamie County Trails Association.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 9, 2025, in Ames.

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