
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 29, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING — DECEMBER 2025

The Transportation Commission (Commission) met for an informal workshop on December 9, 2025, in Ames. The Commission discussed the following topics:

- **Director's Welcome.** Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Director Scott Marler discussed the following three items with the Commission.
 - The DOT gave details of a special informal workshop in January to review the DOT long-range transportation plan and changes made based on public feedback.
 - The DOT gave an update on a Lansing bridge project, stating that construction has slowed due to weather.
 - The DOT discussed its response to the November 29, 2025, and December 6, 2025, snowstorms. The DOT stated that there were eight accidents involving drivers hitting snowplows but no major injuries or fatalities.
- **Transportation Trends Update.** The DOT provided the following updates:
 - Railcar loads have decreased by 6.8% in November 2025 compared to November 2024. Year-to-date U.S. railcar loads increased by 0.8%.
 - Monthly commercial service airport passenger counts in October 2025 increased by 1.0% compared to October 2024.
 - Monthly State vehicle miles of travel for October 2025 increased by 0.4% compared to October 2024.
 - As of December 2025, year-to-date statewide fatalities have decreased 23.0% and major injuries have decreased 8.2% when compared to the five-year average.
- **2026 Highway Program Balance Report.** The Commission received an update on the FY 2026 Highway Program balance. The Program balance in November 2025 was \$11.5 million. This is an increase of \$4.7 million compared to October 2025.
- **2026 through 2030 Highway Program Amendment.** The Commission received an update to the 2026 Highway Program to begin work on the Interstate-35 corridor from Ankeny to Ames.
- **2026 Commission Tours.** During calendar year (CY) 2026, the Commission plans to go on four tours to different cities and view current DOT projects. In CY 2026, the Commission plans to visit Fort Madison in April, Perry in June, Iowa City in August, and Marquette in October.
- **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Program.** The Commission was informed of a local development recommendation. Currently there is \$7.9 million available from the city RISE fund and no available funds from the county RISE fund as of October 31, 2025. The city of Altoona submitted an application for a local development project for construction of approximately 1,085 feet of 33rd Street NW and intersection improvements including turn lanes along 34th Avenue NW at 42nd Street NW with a traffic signal at 25th Street NW located on the northwest side of town.
- **FY 2027 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP).** The TSIP is a program designed to implement traffic safety features in order to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. The TSIP is funded by the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). Every month, 0.5% of moneys credited to the RUTF is allocated to the DOT for TSIP programs. Available funding for the TSIP is \$9.8 million. The TSIP received a total of 36 applications. Funding for the TSIP is split between three funding categories: site-specific improvements, traffic control devices, and studies and outreach. A full list of applications can be found on the DOT [website](#).
- **CY 2026 Intercity Bus Grant Program.** The Intercity Bus Grant Program is used to support intercity bus service that includes stops at nonurbanized locations and makes meaningful connections to a nationwide network. The Intercity Bus Grant Program is funded by the Federal Transit Administration

(FTA). Every state must spend at least 15.0% of its annual apportionment of the FTA formula grants for rural areas for the development and support of intercity bus transportation. Current available funding for the Intercity Bus Grant Program is \$7.4 million. The Program received a total of 15 applications, with all 15 recommended for funding. Greyhound Lines had seven applications recommended for funding, Jefferson Lines had seven applications recommended for funding, and the city of Fort Dodge had one application approved for funding.

- **FY 2027 State Transit Assistance Special Projects.** State Transit Assistance special projects are grants designed to support transit services developed in conjunction with human services agencies or local community partners or statewide projects to improve public transit in Iowa. The program receives an allocation of 4.0% of the moneys collected from fees for new registration collected on sales of motor vehicles to a maximum of \$425,000 per Iowa Code chapter [324A](#). In FY 2027, the State Transit Assistance special projects have \$474,000 available for funding and five projects recommended for funding. The following five projects are recommended for funding:
 - General Transit Feed Specification Contractor, sponsored by the Iowa DOT. The recommended funding is \$77,500, or 100.0% of the total project cost.
 - lowarideshare.org Ridematching software, sponsored by the Iowa DOT. The recommended funding is \$45,000, or 100.0% of the total project cost.
 - SWI-Ride (Hybrid demand-response service in Pottawattamie and Mills counties), sponsored by Southwest Iowa Transit Agency Region 13. The recommended funding is \$50,000, or 19.6% of the total project cost.
 - Making moves with Des Moines Area Regional Transit's (DART) New Network (marketing campaign), sponsored by DART Authority. The recommended funding is \$75,000, or 50.0% of the total project cost.
 - Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) Awareness Campaign (marketing campaign), sponsored by HIRTA, Region 11. The recommended funding is \$50,000, or 50.0% of the total project cost.
- **Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP).** The ICAAP supports projects with the highest potential for reducing transportation-related congestion and air pollution. The ICAAP receives funds from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) and the Carbon Reduction Program. Total available funding for ICAAP is \$4.0 million. The following six applicants are recommended for funding:
 - Traffic Signal System Improvements, sponsored by the city of Marion. The recommended funding is \$654,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Phase 5 Traffic Signal Master Plan Deployment, sponsored by the city of Ames. The recommended funding is \$1.2 million, or 45.0% of the total project cost.
 - Adaptive Traffic Control System Phase 1, sponsored by the city of Ankeny. The recommended funding is \$400,000, or 73.0% of the total project cost.
 - 12th Street NW and Pierce Avenue Roundabout, sponsored by the city of Mason City. The recommended funding is \$727,000, or 70.0% of the total project cost.
 - Enterprise Commute Vanpool, sponsored by Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency. The recommended funding is \$117,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Utica Ridge Road and East 56th Street Roundabout, sponsored by the city of Davenport. The recommended funding is \$1.3 million, or 66.0% of the total project cost.
- **Federal Recreational Trails Program.** The Federal Recreational Trails program is designed to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized trail users. Total available federal funding is \$1.3 million. The following programs are recommended for funding:
 - Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment, sponsored by Iowa State Snowmobile Association. The recommended funding is \$264,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Off-Highway Vehicle Park Maintenance Equipment, sponsored by Iowa Department of National Resources. The recommended funding is \$654,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Skunk River Bridge Repair, sponsored by Polk County Conservation Board. The recommended funding is \$468,000, or 53.0% of the total project cost.
 - Pinicon Ridge Park Wapsi, Bluff Trail Connector, sponsored by Linn County Conservation Department. The recommended funding is \$325,000, or 71.0% of the total project cost.

- **Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program.** The Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside program is designed to help establish safe routes on roads, conversions of abandoned rail corridors for trails, and preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. The Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside program is funded by the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant. Total funding available is \$5.3 million. There were 14 applicants with 6 recommended for funding. The 6 recommended funding amounts are as follows:
 - Central City Pedestrian Bridge, sponsored by the city of Central City. The recommended funding is \$1.4 million, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Iowa Safe Routes Partnerships, sponsored by Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments. The recommended funding is \$312,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Great American Rail Trail: Weston to Underwood, sponsored by Pottawattamie County Conservation. The recommended funding is \$1.9 million, or 43.0% of the total project cost.
 - Summer Street-Dankwardt Park Connector Trail, sponsored by the city of Burlington. The recommended funding is \$750,000, or 80.0% of the total project cost.
 - Camanche Trail Extensions, sponsored by the city of Camanche. The recommended funding is \$500,000, or 77.0% of the total project cost.
 - University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management, sponsored by the UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center. The recommended funding is \$448,000, or 42.0% of the total project cost.
- **Iowa State Rail Plan.** The Commission received an overview of the State Rail Plan (SRP). The SRP is updated every four years and was last updated in January 2021. The SRP implements a multimodal transportation plan to ensure Iowa's transportation system meets the needs of both passengers and freight trains. The plan guides the DOT in its activities of supporting access to rail transportation, helping improve the freight and passenger system, and promoting improved safety on the rail network.

The Commission held a business meeting on December 9, 2025, in Ames. The Commission took the following actions:

- **Approved Minutes.** The Commission approved the minutes from the last meeting on November 12, 2025.
- **RISE Program.** The Commission approved the recommended funding for the city of Altoona local development project.
- **FY 2027 TSIP.** The Commission approved the recommendations for the TSIP.
- **CY 2026 Intercity Bus Grant Program.** The Commission approved the recommendations for the CY 2026 Intercity Bus Grant Program.
- **2026 through 2030 Highway Program Amendment.** The Commission approved the amendment to the 2026 through 2030 Iowa Transportation Improvement Program.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 13, 2026, in Ames.

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Doc ID 1545365