

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Highway Division

Purpose and History

The Highway Division of the Department of Transportation (DOT) develops, designs, constructs, and maintains the state's Primary Road System, including primary roadways and bridges. The Division oversees maintenance projects on highways and bridges, the Adopt-A-Highway Program, roadside management, rest area administration, road weather information systems, traffic safety, safety management systems, snow and ice control, and general operation and preservation of the highway system. The Division's responsibilities also include research and development, transportation-related environmental investigations and compliance, ensuring consistency with engineering practices, acquiring right-of-way easements, and providing technical assistance and consultation with local jurisdictions.

The state's Primary Road System was established in 1919 by the 38th General Assembly when it enacted legislation establishing a road system of 6,400 miles and a Primary Road Fund to finance construction and maintenance of the system. The DOT was established in 1974 by the 65th General Assembly succeeding the Iowa Highway Commission. In 2011, the state's Primary Road System included 8,892 miles of roadways and 510 miles of ramps, as well as 4,097 bridges.

Funding History

State Funding: Operations of the Division are funded entirely by the Highway Division appropriation from the Primary Road Fund. The appropriation for the Division is included in the Transportation Appropriations Bill under the purview of the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee. For FY 2015, the General Assembly appropriated \$235.7 million to the DOT for Highway Division administration.

Highway programs administered by the Division are funded with the Primary Road Fund and federal funds. The state's General Fund is not used for the Division's operation or for highway programs. The Primary Road Fund is funded from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) and the TIME-21 Fund.

Federal Funding for Highway Programs: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allocates resources to states based on formula. The Iowa Highway Division is reimbursed by the FHWA for highway projects. These funds pay for project costs and are not used to support the administration of the Highway Division. The Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) was established in 1956 to support the construction of the nation's interstate system. Fuel tax and other highway-user revenue collected by the federal government are placed in the HTF.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapters [313](#), [313A](#), and [314](#).
[761](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

Highway Finance Information <http://www.iowadot.gov/about/HighwayFinance.html>

Iowa General Assembly: www.legis.iowa.gov

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