

At this point, I really can't say where we are headed with the time 21 plan. I think it was a great study that is way past due. Some have suggested that the meetings we held throughout the state were nothing but "Cover" and an increase in the gas tax is a foregone conclusion. I can sincerely assure you nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, it is that type of talk that has created the political atmosphere that has us facing an astonishing amount of deferred maintenance. Placing us, again, at risk from competing in the global economy and missing out on an opportunity of a generation.

It should be pointed out that communities are voicing their concerns. I have received numerous resolutions from cities, counties and organizations voicing their support of the time 21 study and fund, and they are asking the legislature to act on the Time 21 recommendations.

On behalf of myself and Senator Noble and our respective staffs, Kerry Wright, Democratic Senate Staff, and Angie Lewis Republican Staff, we would like to thank all that participated in these meetings. We are encouraged by the positive and enthusiastic tenor of each meeting. We will be meeting with our colleagues in the House, Rep. Huser and Rep Tjepkes. We will continue discussing this critically important dilemma that we face as lowans, in a candid and bi-partisan manner.

Respectfully,

Tom Rielly, Chair, Iowa Senate Transportation Committee
Larry Noble, Ranking Member, Iowa Senate Transportation Committee

Below are a few of the concerns and recommendations that resulted from the meetings:

Johnston

- New construction is great, but maintenance is our number one need and cannot keep up with the soaring costs associated.
- Need support for transportation policy planning to accommodate all street users, from children to seniors.
- Counties will be hurt if the distribution is cut to 20% for the county. Now, facing increase road travel to new ethanol plant with large trucks.
- Hard to get grant money to actually finish the trail and then have to keep up with high construction costs. Using railbeds for trails. Along with a dual trail system: one paved and one limestone for horses and snowmobiles.
- Bridges are falling apart and have not paved a new road in 6 years.

- Pick up trucks should be registered with the same fee structure as vehicles.
- Iowa Northern Railroad, rail traffic is up 30% with new ethanol industry.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees
- Increase all over user fees
- Increase gas tax

Fort Dodge

- Barge industry is important to central Iowa, even though they do not have a direct link to major rivers.
- License farm equipment again – farmers can take a tax write off.
- If we are to be the energy capitol of the world, we must have the high quality roads.
- Northwestern Iowa is the best land to yield the best corn and that is why the ethanol plants are building at that exact location.
- Ethanol and livestock industry cannot survive without a strong, safe and new road system.
- ATV parks are critical for recreation and enjoyment, along with keeping young people in Iowa.
- Essential air service funding is needed for general improvements and runway markings.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees
- Increase all over user fees
- Increase gas tax
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Logan

- Time 21 proposal does not fix everything, it just does damage control with our current situation of rehabilitation and maintenance.
- We cannot NOT do this!
- Southwest Iowa Coalition for Eco. Development has endorsed TIME 21.
- Forget the Values Fund, give us the roads. We cannot do anything without roads.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees
- Increase all over user fees
- Increase gas tax

Oskaloosa

- Need more mass transit for individuals w/disabilities, along with busing system
- 9 cents is not a big deal
- County/City distribution should be more.
- Must focus on bridges, farm-to-market roads, maintainance
- A shortage of money is harder on counties/cities than the state.
- Secondary road system is in dire straits compared to primary roads.
- Louisa Co. wants the SAME distribution, not the one proposed in TIME-21

- The DOT focuses on the fancy roads in DSM. DSM is the black hole, it all goes in and nothing comes out.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees
- Increase all over user fees
- Increase gas tax

Toledo:

- Iowa Bicycle Coalition wants better planning and more trails and trail funding.
- Maintenance is our number one need and cannot keep up with the soaring costs associated.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees.
- Increase all over user fees.
- Increase gas tax.

Clinton

- Bio-fuel producers do need to get products to and from plants, with corn at \$4 a bushel, we are producing more than ever.
- Have to haul the gluten and bi-product by rail and road.
- An increased gas tax can also clean up junk cars in yards and fields.
- Want say in how to spend \$ and on what projects.
- County/City distribution should be more.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees.
- Increase all over user fees.
- Increase gas tax.

Marion

- Need more mass transit for individuals w/disabilities, along with busing system
- Critical planning is needed
- Plan smarter
- Think intermodally
- Need a transit system and good roads to keep young people in Iowa.
- Understand how metro areas have a deserted downtown on weekends and a heavy commuter traffic issue on weekdays.
- Ethanol industry cannot survive without a strong, safe and new road system.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees.
- Increase all over user fees.
- Increase gas tax.

Waterloo:

- Farm to market road system is going broke.
- Need efficiency at DOT overall
- Freeze the rollback
- City streets are critical. Potholes everywhere. Eats up majority of city budgets.
- Increase pick up truck registration fees.
- Increase all over user fees.
- Increase gas tax.