
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Highway Division — Primary Road Fund

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 legislation was enacted 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 FY 2019 the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement is being transferred from the Motor Vehicle Division to the Highway Division.

State Funding

The appropriation for the Division is included in the Transportation Appropriations Act under the purview of the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee.

Prior to estimated FY 2019, the Division was funded by the Primary Road Fund (PRF). In estimated FY 2019 the Division is funded by the PRF and the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). In estimated FY 2019, \$247.8 million is appropriated from the PRF. The total appropriation for the Division is \$258.1 million.

The General Assembly also annually appropriates full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to the Division. In estimated FY 2019, 2,056.0 FTE positions are appropriated.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

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

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Department of Transportation: iowadot.gov/about/divisions-offices#4391276-highway-division
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