
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Highway Division/Transportation Operations — 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 was transferred from the Motor Vehicle Division to the Highway Division.

Beginning in FY 2023, the General Assembly consolidated the four previous appropriations for Administrative Services, Highway, Planning and Programming, and Strategic Performance into one Transportation Operations appropriation to provide the DOT with more flexibility to manage resources. Transportation Operations will be responsible for the same services that the previous appropriations covered prior to the consolidation. However, for accounting purposes, the total Transportation Operations appropriation appears under the Highway Division budget unit in tracking. The four previous separate budget units can be located below:

- [Administrative Services](#)
- [Highway](#)
- [Planning and Programming](#)
- [Strategic Performance](#)

As of [January 2023](#), the Highway Division has been reorganized as the Systems Operations Division and Field Operations Division.

Funding

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

More Information

Department of Transportation: iowadot.gov/about/divisions-bureaus
LSA Staff Contact: Maria Wagenhofer (515.281.5270) maria.wagenhofer@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [307](#), [313](#), [313A](#), and [314](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [761](#)

Budget Unit Number

6450S220137

Doc ID 1285083