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8:00 a.m.  Public Input Meeting

*Action Item

On Monday, April 13, the Commission and staff will tour transportation projects in south central Iowa starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Ottumwa airport and ending around 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel, 1800 – 50th Street, West Des Moines. The Commission and staff will hold an informal meeting at the Sheraton West Des Moines beginning at 3:00 p.m. Transportation-related matters will be discussed but no action will be taken.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office: Director's Office
Order No.: D-2009-52
Submitted by: Connie Page
Phone No.: 515-239-1242
Meeting Date: April 14, 2009
Title: Approving Minutes of the March 10, 2009, Commission Meeting

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended the Commission approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009, Commission meeting.

COMMISSION ACTION:
Moved by Cleaveland Seconded by Wiley

Blouin X | Nay | Pass
Cleaveland X | | |
Crawford X | | |
Durham X | | |
Reasner X | | |
Sawtelle X | | |
Wiley X | | |

Division Director: Legal: State Director:
Note: Commissioner Blouin participated in the business portion of the meeting by telephone.

Commission Comments

1. **Monday’s Commission Tour.**

   Chairwoman Crawford said yesterday the Commission had the opportunity to tour south central Iowa, starting in Ottumwa and traveling through Bloomfield, Centerville, Lake Rathbun and Honey Creek, Chariton, Osceola, and ending in West Des Moines. On these tours the Commission not only looks at projects that have been approved and may be under way but are also looking at roadway conditions and potential projects that have been brought to our attention by the public. The Commission always finds these tours informative.

2. **Moving Iowa Forward Conference.**

   Commissioner Sawtelle said last Wednesday he attended the Moving Iowa Forward Conference which was a joint effort of the Departments of Transportation and Economic Development. It brought together different modes of transportation to talk about how, using our infrastructure, we grow our business climate economy to best meet future needs.

   Commissioner Sawtelle said John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, was the keynote speaker. After his presentation there was a small group discussion that included several people from the Public Policy Center at the University of Iowa who provided an update on a vehicle miles of travel study they are doing. It was quite informative and some of the technology is intriguing. In the afternoon, he attended an interesting session regarding wind energy. Dan Sabin, Iowa Northern Railway, was the speaker. Commissioner Sawtelle said the Commission visited the Manly terminal on one of its tours. That is an ethanol trans-loading facility that has expanded to a storage facility for wind turbine components. It was interesting to hear how they met that challenge and to see some of the opportunities of a short line rail as it relates to economic development. He expressed appreciation to DOT staff that did an excellent job with the conference.
3. **Chairwoman Crawford’s last meeting.**

Chairwoman Crawford said after eight years on the Commission, one would think she knows everything but that is not the case and is probably a good thing because if we do not continue to learn, we never continue to grow. One thing she does know is that we have one of the best DOT staffs of any staff she has worked with; they know what they are doing. She has also had the fortune of working with a couple cycles of commissioners who have embraced the concept of partnership.

After the business portion of the meeting, Commissioner Sawtelle said Chairwoman Crawford is one of the most gracious people he has worked with on a board or commission. She is patient, and he always respected her perspective and the way she helped the Commission do business. He presented her with a gavel in appreciation of her service as chair of the commission.

Chairwoman Crawford said yesterday she was informed at the last minute that we had to take a detour to the capitol, and unbeknownst to her, staff had arranged for Lieutenant Governor Judge to give her a certificate for her eight years of service so that was a good surprise.

Nancy Richardson, Director, said in addition we have a DOT certificate in appreciation for Commissioner Crawford’s eight years of dedicated service to the state of Iowa as an Iowa Transportation Commissioner serving from May 1, 2001, to April 30, 2009. She said the eight years have flown by and she is sad Chairwoman Crawford is leaving. She expressed appreciation for Chairwoman Crawford’s support.
Due to recent changes in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety and Hazardous Materials Regulations, the Iowa DOT is amending Administrative Rule 761, Chapter 520. This amendment will reflect changes in the 2008 Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 107, 171-173, 177-178, 180, 385, and 390-399.

The period for public comment ended March 31, and no comments were received.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:
It is recommended the Commission approve the attached rule amendments.
ITEM 1. Amend paragraph 520.1(1)"a" as follows:


ITEM 2. Amend paragraph 520.1(1)"b" as follows:


__________________________________________
NANCY J. RICHARDSON, DIRECTOR
DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Dyersville submitted a RISE Local Development application in the February 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 900 feet of Industrial Parkway Southwest and 460 feet of Commerce Court Southwest to provide access to 46 acres in the Dyersville 20 West Industrial Center.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $225,811 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from the city of Dyersville to construct about 900 feet of Industrial Parkway Southwest and 460 feet of Commerce Court Southwest to provide access for five lots totaling 46 acres in the Dyersville 20 West Industrial Center. Using a power point map, he pointed out the project location south of U.S. 20 on the west side of Dyersville. Mr. Markley said the project received a rating of 47 points and has a total estimated project cost of $451,622. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $225,811 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Mick Michel, Dyersville City Administrator.

Mr. Michel expressed appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of their application. He introduced Jacque Rahe, Executive Director, Dyersville Economic Development. Ms. Rahe said the industrial park was purchased by Dyersville Economic Development. The 185 acres on the south side of U.S. 20 was developed as a public/private partnership with an investment of about $2.6 million to get the first phase ready and this will be the last leg. Water and sewer is being placed. They have targeted wind component manufacturing for this park. Currently, northeast of Dyersville, a measurement tower has been erected by a company that is studying the area for possible wind farms. They feel fortunate that, even in this economic downturn, they have some companies that are interested in these new sites. She expressed appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of their application.

Commissioner Reasner asked if there is other industry surrounding this area. Ms. Rahe said Farm Tech is to the east and there are several industries along U.S. 20 including All American Homes, Rc2, and Learning Curves.

Mr. Markley reviewed staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Durham moved, Commissioner Reasner seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $225,811 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds. All voted aye.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COMMISSION ORDER

Planning, Programming and Modal Division
Office of Systems Planning
Order No. PPM-2009-55

Submitted by Craig Markley Phone No. 515-239-1027 Meeting Date April 14, 2009

Title Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy (RISE) Application — Shell Rock (Delegation)

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Shell Rock submitted a RISE Local Development application in the February 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 1,850 feet of roadway to provide access to eight lots totaling more than 14 acres in the new Shell Rock Industrial/Business Park.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $288,888 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Aye Nay Pass

Moved by __________________________ Seconded by __________________________

Division Director Legal State Director
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE local development application from the city of Shell Rock. The city has requested RISE funding to construct approximately 1,850 feet of new roadway to provide access to eight lots totaling over 14 acres in the new Shell Rock Industrial and Business Park located on the east side of town along Iowa 3. This project received a rating of 34 points. It has a total estimated cost of $577,776 and the city is requesting a RISE grant of $288,888 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He reviewed staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Wiley seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $288,888 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund. All voted aye.
DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Marion submitted a RISE Local Development application in the February 2009 round requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 3,950 feet of Partners Avenue to provide access to 11 lots totaling more than 144 acres in the new Marion Enterprise Park.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $1,313,031 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE funds.
Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from the city of Marion to construct a 3,950 foot extension of Partners Avenue to provide access to 11 lots totaling over 144 acres in the new Marion Enterprise Park located on the northeast side of town east of U.S. 151 and Iowa 3 and west of the Marion airport. This project received a rating of 60 points. It has an estimated project cost of $2,626,061. The city is requesting a RISE grant of $1,313,031 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Allen Merta, Vice President, Priority One.

Mr. Merta said this project represents a true public/private partnership in that the city of Marion, Marion Economic Development Company (MEDCO), and MEDCO holding company, the entity that owns the property, are collaborating in the development of this property. There have been several milestones for this project. The first was the buy in of local developers because they perceived this project as a publicly funded competitor. The second was to have both the MEDCO Board and city council approve the project. The third was getting five banks to the table to provide funding. The Commission’s approval today is key because it helps with the next step which is to develop the property in a cost-effective means because the price to develop land in Marion and the Cedar Rapids metro area is disproportionately high. Land sells for $65,000 to over $100,000 an acre for industrial property. At the same time a disproportionate share of the city of Marion’s assessed value is commercial and industrial. Industry makes up less than one percent so this project will help Marion balance its tax base. RISE will help them provide shovel-ready industrial sites for 66 to 75 percent less cost with their local developers doing most of the construction.

Mr. Merta said they hope to accomplish 2.3 million square feet, $600 million in construction cost, with a new assessed value of $114 million yielding more than $4.8 million in property taxes. They are expecting fast growth with 4,700 new jobs and a new payroll of about $202 million. That is a good return on investment. Priority One markets world wide in conjunction with MEDCO. In May they are hosting eleven wind-related Danish companies. They also have a number of companies that are interested in the Marion Enterprise Park. One had 10 feet of flood water in its facilities last June and is operating out of four different locations. On behalf of the city of Marion, MEDCO and MEDCO holding company, Mr. Merta expressed appreciation for the Commission’s consideration of their application. Chairwoman Crawford noted the Commission met yesterday and had the opportunity to thoroughly review each RISE project. Mr. Markley reviewed staff’s recommendation.

Commissioner Reasner moved, Commissioner Sawtelle seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of $1,313,031 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund. All voted aye.