

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA ITEMS/COMMISSION ORDERS

Tuesday, December 9, 2008  
 Materials Conference Room  
 Ames DOT Complex

ITEM NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTED BY	PAGE
D-2009-19 8:00 a.m.	*Approving Minutes of the November 4, 2008, Commission Meeting  Commission Comments  Staff Comments	Connie Page	1
PPM-2009-20 8:05 a.m.	*CY 2009 Intercity Bus Assistance Program	Garrett Pedersen	2
PPM-2009-21 8:15 a.m.	*FY 2008 New Freedom Program – Second Round	Garrett Pedersen	4
PPM-2009-22 8:25 a.m.	*Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program Projects	Tamara Nicholson	6
H-2009-23 8:35 a.m.	*FY 2010 Traffic Safety Improvement Program Projects	Tom Welch	8
PPM-2009-24 8:45 a.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Nevada (Delegation)	Stuart Anderson	9
PPM-2009-25 8:55 a.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – West Des Moines (Delegation)	Stuart Anderson	10
PPM-2009-26 9:05 a.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Fairfield (Delegation)	Stuart Anderson	11
9:15 a.m.	Meeting adjourned		

\*Action Item

On Monday, December 8, the Commission and staff will meet informally at 3:00 p.m. in the Materials conference room at the DOT complex in Ames. 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-2009-19  
Submitted by Connie Page Phone No. 515-239-1242 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title Approving Minutes of the November 4, 2008, Commission Meeting

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve the minutes of the November 4, 2008, Commission meeting.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by Cleaveland Seconded by Wiley

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Cleaveland	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Crawford	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Durham	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Reasner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Sawtelle	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Wiley	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      \_\_\_\_\_ Legal                      \_\_\_\_\_ State Director

Note: Commissioners Crawford and Blouin participated in this meeting by telephone.

Commission Comments:

1. Commission Recognition of Neil Volmer

On behalf of the Commission, Chairwoman Crawford recognized Neil Volmer who is retiring after many years with the Department of Transportation. She noted Mr. Volmer is going to be hard to replace, and the Commission will miss the benefit of his wisdom, experience, and caution as we deliberate issues. Chairwoman Crawford said the Commission applauds everything he has done for not only the Commission but for the state of Iowa, and she wished him a wonderful time in retirement.

2. Commission Recognition of Phil Barnes, FHWA

Chairwoman Crawford, on behalf of the Commission, recognized the retirement of Phil Barnes after 41 years with the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Barnes is the Administrator of the Iowa Division and is a person the Commission has depended on heavily over the years to provide direction, information, and assistance in issues involving the Federal Highway Administration.

3. Fairfield Ribbon Cutting

Commissioner Wiley said he attended the ribbon cutting for the Fairfield bypass which completed the Des Moines to Burlington corridor and the six priority corridors. The city of Fairfield did a nice job hosting the event and acknowledging the larger scope of the event. Ms. Richardson spoke. Governor Culver and two congressmen were there as well as many others. It was a really nice event, and everyone that helped deserves some thanks and to feel good about it. Commissioner Wiley said he lives about 25 miles from Fairfield, and many people have called, written, or told him how much they appreciate the bypass and driving on that completed corridor.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Transit Order No. PPM-2009-20  
Submitted by Garrett Pedersen Phone No. 515-239-1806 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title CY 2009 Intercity Bus Assistance Program

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**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

Federal law requires 15 percent of the federal funding each state receives for rural transit must be used for support of intercity bus services, unless the governor certifies to the Federal Transit Administration that all intercity bus needs within the state have been met.

All applications for calendar 2009 projects were found to conform to the program guidelines and fundable out of the 15 percent set-aside for this purpose, with some minor adjustments in funding amounts to meet program guidelines and the funding availability.

A listing of the proposed program of projects is attached.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve the calendar 2009 Intercity Bus Assistance Program as presented.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Director

PPM-2009-20

Garrett Pedersen, Office of Public Transit, said at the November workshop staff reviewed a funding recommendation for the 2009 Intercity Bus Assistance Program. That included funding for five applicants:

- Burlington Trailways applied for \$238,912 for both new and existing service as well as marketing for both.
- Fort Dodge Dart applied for \$75,000 to market an existing route.
- Greyhound Lines applied for \$174,830 to market existing service.
- Jefferson Lines had a rather extensive application for over \$1.1 million for existing and new service, marketing for both existing and new service, marketing for the Iowa Travel Information Center, marketing analysis study for the new service, information and ticketing systems, and two new motor coaches.
- Sioux City Transit applied for \$11,200 for terminal improvements.

Mr. Pedersen said staff recommends funding all five applications for a total of \$1,573,253.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Wiley seconded the Commission approve the calendar 2009 Intercity Bus Assistance Program as presented. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division Order No. PPM-2009-21  
 Submitted by Garrett Pedersen Phone No. 515-239-1806 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
 Title FY 2008 New Freedom Program – Second Round

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

When the first round of transit project applications were approved this summer, there were funds left unprogrammed under the Federal Transit Administration’s New Freedom program. A second round of applications was accepted October 1, reviewed by staff, and are recommended for Commission approval.

A listing of the proposed program of projects is attached.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve the FY 2008 (second round) New Freedom program as presented.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division  
Director

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Legal

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State Director

PPM-2009-21

Garrett Pedersen, Office of Public Transit, said in November staff presented a funding recommendation for a second round of funding under the 2008 New Freedom Program. That included just one project for Sioux City Transit for \$63,910 for a 28 foot low-floor bus. Staff recommends funding this application.

Chairwoman Crawford moved, Commissioner Reasner seconded the Commission approve the FY 2008 (second round) New Freedom program as presented. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Rail Transportation Order No. PPM-2009-22  
Submitted by Tamara Nicholson Phone No. 515-239-1052 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program Projects

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**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

Staff will present the proposed 2010 Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program for warning device projects.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve the 2010 Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      \_\_\_\_\_ Legal                      \_\_\_\_\_ State Director

PPM-2009-22

Tamara Nicholson, Office of Rail Transportation, presented the 2010 Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program projects. The safety program provides assistance for railroads and highway jurisdictions to install or upgrade safety improvements at highway/railroad crossings. This funding is available to railroads and highway authorities through an annual DOT application program. Applications can be submitted by either the railroad or the highway authority to be considered for funding.

Ms. Nicholson said a recommendation was reviewed with the Commission at the November workshop for the 2010 safety projects. She requested Commission's approval for funding 19 projects, crossing closures statewide, and the yield sign pilot project, totaling \$3.6 million for 2010.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Durham seconded the Commission approve the 2010 Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Program. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Highway / Engineering / Traffic and Safety Order No. H-2009-23  
Submitted by Tom Welch Phone No. 515-239-1267 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title FY 2010 Traffic Safety Improvement Program Projects

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

In 1987 the Iowa Legislature provided that one-half percent of the Road Use Tax Fund be used for traffic safety improvements or studies on public roads under city, county or state jurisdiction.

The program provides three funding areas for candidate safety projects:

1. Traffic control devices;
2. Site-specific; and
3. Research studies and safety initiatives.

The candidate projects and the recommendations from Department staff and the state/county/city safety program advisory committee will be presented to the Commission for review and approval.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve the FY 2010 Traffic Safety Improvement Program.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      Legal                      State Director

H-2009-23

Tom Welch, Office of Traffic and Safety, said at the November workshop we discussed the fiscal year 2010 state funded traffic safety program which consists of 43 projects requesting \$6,366,000. He requested Commission approval of the program.

Commissioner Wiley moved, Chairwoman Crawford seconded the Commission approve the FY 2010 Traffic Safety Improvement Program. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2009-24  
Submitted by Stuart Anderson Phone No. 515-239-1312 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Nevada (Delegation)

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

The city of Nevada submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the construction of turning lanes at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Airport Road/W. 18th Street west of Nevada.

The improvement is necessary to provide access to the site of the proposed Syngenta's Nevada seed corn facility. This company conforms to the legislative requirements of the RISE program.

The roadway will support:

- The creation of 38 new jobs at this facility.
- \$114,200,000 in associated capital investment.

The RISE cost per job assisted will be \$6,000, and there will be total capital investment of \$500.88 for each RISE dollar requested.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, it is recommended the Commission award a RISE grant of \$228,000 or up to 80 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund.

<b>COMMISSION ACTION:</b>				Vote		
				Aye	Nay	Pass
Moved by _____	Seconded by _____		Blouin	_____	_____	_____
			Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
			Crawford	_____	_____	_____
			Durham	_____	_____	_____
			Reasner	_____	_____	_____
			Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
			Wiley	_____	_____	_____
_____ Division Director	_____ Legal	_____ State Director				

PPM-2009-24

Stuart Anderson, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE immediate opportunity application from the city of Nevada for funding to assist the construction of turn lanes at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Airport Road. Using a map, he reviewed the location of the project. The requested improvements are necessary to provide adequate access to a proposed site for a Syngenta Seed Corn processing facility. Syngenta is an international agricultural product company that employs 19,500 in 90 countries.

Mr. Anderson said the proposed development will result in the creation of 38 new jobs within two years of project completion and an associated capital investment of \$114.2 million. The average starting wage of the positions to be created is \$18.41 per hour which is 125 percent of the Story county average wage rate. We will recommend a RISE grant of \$228,000 that goes toward a total road cost of \$490,000. RISE funding will be contingent on the creation of 38 new jobs within two years of project completion which results in a RISE cost per job assisted ratio of \$6,000 and a total capital investment per RISE dollar of \$500.88. He invited the delegation, participating by conference call, to introduce themselves and to make comments.

Mayor Jerry Gull expressed appreciation for the Commission's continued commitment to Iowa in the consideration of these RISE grants. We have seen how partnerships benefit Iowa's communities, and the Commission plays a key role in that. The Department has participated in the past with Nevada's Lincoln Way Energy project that has been a great success for the community as well as Story county. It has provided quality jobs, tax base, and improved safety along Lincoln Highway between the cities of Ames and Nevada. These partnerships show that Nevada and the DOT are working to benefit Iowa.

Elizabeth Hansen, City Administrator, said city staff partnered with District one staff to program these improvements to minimize the impact on U.S. 30, and the city has plans to put in the infrastructure in 2009. She expressed appreciation for the Commission's consideration.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Durham moved, Commissioner Reasner seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, award a RISE grant of \$228,000 or up to 80 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2009-25  
Submitted by Stuart Anderson Phone No. 515-239-1312 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – West Des Moines (Delegation)

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

The city of West Des Moines submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 900 feet of Grand Avenue west of S. 88th Street and approximately 2,844 feet of S. 88th Street from Raccoon River Drive north through the intersection with Booneville Drive. The project will provide access to a new Microsoft facility and open land in the West Grand Business Park for new development.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, it is recommended the Commission reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2008 round of applications and award a RISE grant of \$3,413,053 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      Legal                      State Director

Stuart Anderson, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE immediate opportunity application from the city of West Des Moines to assist the construction of 900 ft. of West Grand Avenue west of South 88<sup>th</sup> Street and approximately 2,844 feet of South 88<sup>th</sup> Street from Raccoon River Drive north through the intersection with Booneville Drive. Using a map, he reviewed the location of the project. These proposed improvements will provide access to a proposed Microsoft data center. Because these roadways also open additional land for development and in order to maximize RISE support for this project, staff evaluated it as a RISE local development application, and it scored 49 points. The total estimated project cost is \$6,826,105. The city is requesting a RISE grant of \$3,413,053 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He noted the West Des Moines delegation is participating by conference call.

Mayor Steve Gaer said with him are Jeff Pomeranz, city manager; Clyde Evans, economic development director; and Linda Schaut, Dallas County Development Alliance. Mayor Gaer said they appreciate the cooperation the city of West Des Moines has received from the Iowa DOT. This project is in the area where the DOT helped them with the Wells Fargo and Aviva projects which have been successful.

From a regional impact, Mayor Gaer said the Microsoft project represents a \$100 million investment in the state of Iowa. The first phase will be an 180,000 square foot data center with an expected phase two expansion of another 280,000 square feet. The jobs associated with the Microsoft data center will have average salaries of approximately \$70,000. From their research it is also apparent 200 to 1,500 ancillary high quality jobs tend to follow data centers. In fact, because of the Microsoft data center, the city of West Des Moines has received inquiries from five new companies with a potential employment base of 700 to 900 jobs in this area.

Since 2000, Mayor Gaer said the city of West Des Moines has invested almost \$180 million in infrastructure in the area. The infrastructure they would build as a part of this grant application would be another approximately \$11 million for the interchange. They have aspirations of partnering with the Iowa DOT in the I-35/Grand Avenue interchange reconstruction from Iowa 5 to the west mix master and to also plan the construction of the remaining part of Grand Avenue which will open an 800 acre West Grand Business Park and facilitate additional development in the Jordan Creek corridor area, eventually to the 100th St. interchange. In addition, the city of West Des Moines has commitments from Mid-America Energy to make substantial investments in electric and gas utilities in this area to open up additional development as a part of this project. Mr. Anderson reviewed staff's recommendation.

Chairwoman Crawford moved, Commissioner Cleaveland seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2008 round and award a RISE grant of \$3,413,053 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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2009-26  
Submitted by Stuart Anderson Phone No. 515-239-1312 Meeting Date December 9, 2008  
Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Fairfield (Delegation)

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

The city of Fairfield submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the reconstruction of 10th Street from Grimes Avenue north to Depot Avenue.

The improvement is necessary to provide improved access for the loading docks at the Dexter Company's facility in Fairfield. This company conforms to the legislative requirements of the RISE program.

The roadway will support:

- The creation of 20 new jobs at this facility.
- \$1,555,110 in associated capital investment.

The RISE cost per job assisted will be \$4,054.45, and there will be a total capital investment of \$19.18 for each RISE dollar requested.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, it is recommended the Commission award a RISE grant of \$81,089 or up to 80 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleveland	_____	_____	_____
Crawford	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      \_\_\_\_\_ Legal                      \_\_\_\_\_ State Director

PPM-2009-26

Stuart Anderson, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE immediate opportunity application from the city of Fairfield to assist in the reconstruction of 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Grimes Avenue north to Depot Avenue. Using a power point map, he reviewed the location of the project. This improvement is necessary to provide adequate access to loading docks to support the expansion of Dexter Company. Dexter is headquartered in Fairfield where they produce iron castings and commercial laundry washers and dryers.

Mr. Anderson said this proposed development will result in the creation of 20 new jobs within two years of project completion and an associated capital investment of approximately \$1.6 million. The average starting wage of the positions to be created is \$16.34 per hour which is 110 percent of the Jefferson county average wage rate. He said staff recommends a RISE grant of \$81,089 toward a total road cost of \$101,361. RISE funding will be contingent on the creation of 20 new jobs within two years of project completion, resulting in a RISE cost per job assisted ratio of \$4,054.45 and a total capital investment per RISE dollar of \$19.18. He invited the Fairfield delegation, participating by telephone, to comment on the project.

On behalf of the city of Fairfield, Mayor Ed Malloy expressed appreciation to the Commission for the November 12 grand opening of the U.S. 34/U.S. 63/Iowa 163 corridor. It was a great celebration, and they were thrilled to be the closing link on that wonderful addition to the state's infrastructure. They were happy to have Director Nancy Richardson, Governor Chet Culver, and Congressmen Dave Loebsack and Leonard Boswell in attendance.

Mayor Malloy said this RISE application is a partnership and assistance to one of Fairfield's oldest businesses and largest employer. Coupled with the freight corridor that has now opened up, this is an opportunity to create up to 20 new jobs in their community. The future prospects for this company continue to be good. The Dexter laundry operations are strong. The foundry is the second largest in the state, and there are fewer foundries that operate as manufacturers within the state of Iowa so it is important to preserve this tradition. Given the state of the economy, to see this kind of expansion is extraordinary and they want to support it. He expressed appreciation for the Commission's consideration of this application, and he thanked Mr. Anderson who has been their liaison for the Great Places program. Mr. Anderson has guided them through a number of successful grant applications since they became an Iowa Great Place in 2006. Mr. Anderson reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Wiley moved, Commissioner Reasner seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for job creation, award a RISE grant of \$81,089 or up to 80 percent of the total RISE eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE fund. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 a.m.