

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA ITEMS/COMMISSION ORDERS

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Materials Conference Room
Ames DOT Complex

ITEM NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTED BY	PAGE
D-2012-50 1:30 p.m.	*Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2012, Commission Meeting Commission Comments Staff Comments	Connie Page	1
D-2012-51 1:35 p.m.	*Interstate Rest Area Policy	Paul Trombino III	2
PPM-2012-52 1:40 p.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Stuart (Delegation)	Craig Markley	3
PPM-2012-53 1:45 p.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Le Mars (Delegation)	Craig Markley	6
1:50 p.m.	Public Input		
2:00 p.m.	Adjourn		
*Action Item			

On Tuesday, March 13, the Commission and staff will meet informally at 9:30 a.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-2012-50
Submitted by Connie Page Phone No. 515-239-1242 Meeting Date March 13, 2012
Title Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2012, Commission Meeting

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the minutes of the February 14, 2012, Commission meeting.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by Cleaveland Seconded by Yanney

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Cleaveland	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Miles	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Reasner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Rose	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Wiley	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Yanney	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

Division
Director

Legal

State Director

Commission Comments

1. Omaha Network Presentation by Commissioner Cleaveland

Commissioner Cleaveland said last week he addressed the Omaha Network which is a women's business leadership group with about 70 members present. Staff helped prepare a speech that went very well, and he had quite a number of questions and a lot of compliments. They are still complimenting the DOT for completing repairs to the flood-damaged roadways in such short order. They were very complimentary about the area DOT staff in their snow removal efforts. They were also very complimentary about the rest areas as a number of the women travel I-80 and I-29 to Kansas City, Sioux City and Chicago.

2. Iowa In Motion Meeting

Commissioner Cleaveland said on Thursday he will be attending the Iowa In Motion public input hearing in Atlantic.

Commission Chair Reasner said she thought there is a public input meeting in Hiawatha on April 22 which she plans to attend.

3. Congratulations to Commissioners Reasner and Yanney

Commissioner Miles congratulated Commissioners Reasner and Yanney for being reappointed for another four-year term on the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Director Order No. D-2012-51
Submitted by Paul Trombino III Phone No. 515-239-1111 Meeting Date March 13, 2012
Title Interstate Rest Area Policy

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Iowa has 40 full-service Interstate rest areas that have been in service and continuously available for public use since the 1960's. The rest areas were developed in substantial accord with AASHTO and FHWA guidelines.

In 1991, the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) decided to keep all current rest areas in operation. The DOT implemented its policy by gradually replacing rest area buildings and associated appurtenances. Fifteen (15) Interstate rest area facilities have been replaced to date. The current Iowa Transportation Commission's Five-Year Program contains replacements for four Interstate rest area facilities over the years 2012-2016.

Since 1991, traffic and development along the Interstate system has changed significantly. As a result, the DOT is developing a new Statewide Rest Area Management Plan that will reflect traffic changes and development improvements. This plan will be a guideline for the DOT's development, management, and improvement of rest areas in Iowa.

The Transportation Commission (Commission) recognizes Iowa's Interstate rest areas serve the traveling public and meet safety needs by providing convenient, safe, and accessible opportunities for motorists to rest and rejuvenate as do many commercial operations located at interchanges along the interstate system. The Commission acknowledges there may be opportunities to provide the services of a rest area through other means and/or partnerships.

The Commission requests the DOT to review and study any impact to an existing rest area. The DOT will study alternatives and bring forward a preferred alternative as to how services of the existing rest area will be mitigated.

Subsequent Commission approval of the Statewide Rest Area Management Plan, the DOT is directed to utilize the Statewide Rest Area Management Plan to develop and recommend programming actions for the existing system of Interstate rest areas.

This Commission Order replaces the previous Commission Order No. D-2006-51 on Interstate Rest Area Policy dated March 14, 2006.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the Interstate Rest Area Policy.

COMMISSION ACTION:			Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Moved by _____	Seconded by _____	Blouin	_____	_____	_____
		Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
		Miles	_____	_____	_____
		Reasner	_____	_____	_____
		Rose	_____	_____	_____
		Wiley	_____	_____	_____
		Yanney	_____	_____	_____

_____	_____	_____
Division Director	Legal	State Director

D-2012-51

Director Paul Trombino III said before the Commissioners is the interstate rest area policy which is a revision and replacement of a policy that was put in place in March, 2006. Subsequent to our workshop discussion earlier today, a sentence was added that this order will replace the previous commission order dated March 14, 2006. Ultimately, this commission order will give the Department flexibility as we approach projects that impact rest areas and allow us to study an alternative analysis that will be brought back to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Rose moved, Commissioner Blouin seconded the Commission approve the Rest Area Policy. All voted aye.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER**

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division
Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2012-52
 Submitted by Craig Markley Phone No. 515-239-1027 Meeting Date March 13, 2012
 Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Stuart (Delegation)

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Stuart submitted a RISE Local Development application in the February 2012 round requesting a grant to assist in construction of approximately 1,100 feet of South Seventh Street, approximately 500 feet of Southwest Eighth Street, and intersection improvements on South Gaines Street and South Division Street located on the southwest side of town. This project is necessary to provide access to 68 acres for light industrial purposes. This project is anticipated to be completed by November 2012.

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 \$303,750 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	_____	_____	_____
Miles	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Rose	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____
Yanney	_____	_____	_____

 Division Director Legal State Director

PPM-2012-52

Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, presented a RISE local development application from Stuart requesting funding to construct approximately 1,100 feet of South Seventh Street, approximately 500 feet of Southwest Eighth Street, and intersection improvements on South Gaines Street and South Division Street on the southwest side of town. This project is necessary to provide access to 68 acres for light industrial purposes. Under RISE local development criteria this project received a rating of 54 points. The total estimated cost of this project is \$607,500, and the city is requesting a RISE grant of \$303,750 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Forrest Aldrich, Stuart City Engineer.

Mr. Aldrich introduced Ashraf Ashour, Stuart City Administrator. He said Growmark, a fertilizer distribution company, is looking to locate in Stuart. They will provide six to eight jobs and \$2 to \$3 million in infrastructure. The site plan was approved by the city council last night. This project will allow this industry to have a truck route through the industrial park and will allow access to the interstate avoiding going through a residential neighborhood. He noted this RISE project will connect to a RISE project that was done ten years ago so it a continuation of furthering expansion growth in the city of Stuart. He expressed appreciation for the Commission's consideration of this project.

Mr. Markley reviewed staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Yanney seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of \$303,750 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**

Planning, Programming and Modal Division

Division/Bureau/Office Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2012-53

Submitted by Craig Markley Phone No. 515-239-1027 Meeting Date March 13, 2012

Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Le Mars (Delegation)

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Le Mars submitted a RISE Local Development application in the February 2012 round requesting a grant to assist in construction of approximately 2,640 feet of 27th Street Southwest and approximately 510 feet of Industrial Road located on the southwest side of town. This project is necessary to provide access to eight lots totaling more than 29 acres for heavy industrial purposes. This project is anticipated to be completed by November 2012.

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 \$619,375 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	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Miles	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Rose	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____
Yanney	_____	_____	_____

Division Director Legal State Director

PPM-2012-53

Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, reviewed a RISE local development application from the city of Le Mars to construct approximately 2,640 feet of 27th Street Southwest and approximately 510 feet of Industrial Road on the southwest side of town. This project is necessary to provide access to eight lots totaling more than 29 acres for heavy industrial purposes. Under RISE local development criteria, the project received a rating of 41 points. The total estimated project cost is \$1,238,750. The city is requesting a RISE grant of \$619,375 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He noted a delegation from Le Mars is participating by conference call. He reviewed staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Yanney moved, Commissioner Wiley seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, award a RISE grant of \$619,375 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.

Dick Kirchoff, Mayor of Le Mars, said the city would never be able to do what they are doing without the help of the Commission. They are very appreciative.

1:38 p.m. Public Input

Linda Robel, property owner, West Des Moines, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet the Commission personally. She has talked to some of the Commissioners in the 23 years that she has been fighting for her land. She supports the diverging diamond interchange of Ashworth and Interstate 35. She said Commissioner Rose and Director Trombino III have listened to her after 23 years of trying to get someone to understand that the other plan designed for that interchange would have taken more than 84 acres of great Iowa soil out of production. The diverging diamond option will save 34 acres that can stay in production or could be used for development later; it's not just farm ground or ag holding ground as she has been told many times by the municipalities.

Ms. Robel encouraged the Commission to approve the diverging diamond proposed for the interchange. When designing interchanges, ramps or anything else, the least amount of land should be taken if it maintains the safety of the citizens. It is essential that our good Iowa land be preserved. If the land is not needed, don't take it. To take more in case a design must be corrected later is wrong. It robs our future and destroys lives and dreams. She handed out a map showing just what she would have lost had the other design been used. She also reviewed where the city of West Des Moines took her dirt because it was going to cost \$800,000 if they had to truck in dirt. They took her soil and condemned her ground, and she doesn't want that to happen to anybody else. If \$800,000 would have kept her land, they should have spent it because other people were willing to give them that much land. Land should not be taken by condemnation before the design is even drawn and approved. Politically distorted information was used to forecast traffic. Now that Director Trombino III has come, we have been able to prove that information was wrong. It would have taken so much more ground and she hopes that every time land is taken out of production for interchanges or anything else through eminent domain, that the land is respected. She hopes the Commission will use this diverging diamond design that will give them back 34 acres of good Iowa ground that can be passed on to her children and grandchildren.

Ms. Robel said she has been involved in this for a long time. In 1989 she wanted to build a house on her 129-acre farm and had bought the building permit but West Des Moines would not allow her to build because they said in maybe six months they would put a road through her land. They didn't know where it was going to go; it might take out the whole farm so she didn't build. She has been held to that for 23 years.

Commissioner Rose said he thought the difference is Director Trombino III and the DOT staff working with Ms. Robel to come to a conclusion and he expressed his appreciation to Director Trombino III and staff.

Meeting ended at 1:50 p.m.