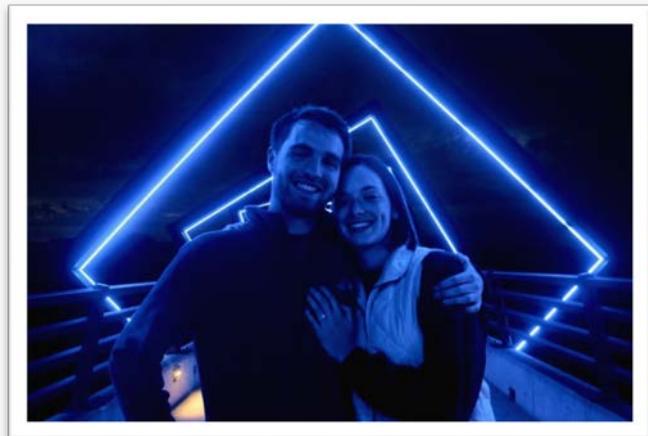


Hi, everyone! Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a holiday season full of friends, family, and fun. It seems like so many things have happened since the last report – last month I was marveling at ISU unexpectedly beating Oklahoma State in football, and that turned out to be the first of many unexpected wins and fun days and nights at Jack Trice stadium; I did the adventure/wilderness triathlon I mentioned in the last report and found out what it was like to tip a canoe and go swimming in just-above freezing weather and sleet; and we held the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the “final forty” of US 20. All great things, but the biggest thing for my family and for me was that my oldest daughter, Mary, became engaged. Mary, who is a senior at ISU, is now engaged to a very nice young man from Fairbank, Iowa named Adam Bodensteiner. Adam is an aerospace space engineering major and trombone player who Mary met through the ISU marching and pep bands (early dates included “h’apps” – half-price appetizers – with the trombone section at Applebees; something I find both incredibly cute and funny and that Mary now regrets sharing with me). We really like Adam and are very excited to have him join our family, and after a concentrated Thanksgiving exposure to our whole family I’m relieved we haven’t scared him off. He’s apparently the resilient sort, which is good in our family!



*Top: A little dim but if you look closely you can make out the proposal on the High Trestle bridge. Matt and his girlfriend Alanna were hiding along the trail to capture the moment.  
Bottom: The happy couple post-proposal.*

## **#Engage update – survey complete!**

To continue this month’s engagement theme, we took another significant step forward with **#Engage**, our program to build and sustain a culture of engagement (again, a culture that helps us all be involved in, enthusiastic about, and committed to our work, that drives productivity and innovation, and that makes our workplaces energizing, fulfilling, and good places to be), by completing our first-ever agency-wide Q12 survey. I really appreciate the commitment so many of you gave to this – with a little encouragement we were able to attain a 75% response rate, which is very much in the norm for first-time response rates. I will be sending out in the next week or so an agency-wide email that shares our

initial agency-wide results, and in the next two months we will concentrate on sharing business unit results with managers, supervisors, and team leads and will complete Gallup-led training for supervisors, managers and team leads. Once training has been completed you can expect more sharing of division, bureau, office, and team results and work on team self-assessments and plans – as we have always said, the survey is just a measure of where we are, the meaningful work comes in our collective and collaborative efforts to improve over time. Our work is just beginning, but it's off to a great start because so many of you were willing to participate and respond. Thank you!

## Governor's budget presentation

Last week we made our annual budget to Governor Reynolds, Lt. Governor Gregg, and the Department of Management. We start developing the budget in late summer/early fall, in consultation with the Department of Management, and this presentation to the Governor is a formal presentation, covered by media, that is the first public discussion of the proposed budget. (The Governor receives formal presentations from all the state's executive agencies, this is not limited to just our budget.) Assuming there are no changes (which we don't anticipate at this point) the budget presented becomes part of the budget the Governor presents to the legislature for its approval during the next session.

**Accomplishments.** The budget presentation always starts with a brief overview of accomplishments, and this year we focused on our mission of mobility and how mobility is driven by safety, flow, sustainability, and accessibility, all things reflected in the accomplishments we presented. This year we focused on accomplishments that reflect some of the very large and statewide impacts we have, including our continued commitment to innovation and customer driven solutions. The presentation touched on all the following:

- Adopting the current **five-year highway program**, which totals \$3.4B in highway investments throughout the state, includes \$1.8B dedicated to modernization and enhanced safety features and invests 55% of the program total in rural areas (you can find the entire program document and an interactive state program map [here](#)).
- Increasing **highway funding capacity and efficiency** by **implementing the federal aid swap** for cities and counties, **obtaining a \$50M US DOT grant** to accelerate completion of the I80/380 interchange by two years, and **receiving a \$58M redistribution of federal funds** through good project planning, execution and readiness.
- Achieving a high level of safety, performance, and efficiency in our **winter operations** with innovations like adding rear-flashing blue lights, cameras, and GPS-AVL (global positioning systems and automatic vehicle location) to all 902 of our snowplows; public information systems like our 511 app and track-a-plow features; operational and performance analytics, and practical solutions like our living snow fence program.
- Supporting **economic development and job growth** by providing road and rail access to industries and development areas across the state through the **Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)** and **Railroad Revolving Loan & Grant Program**.
- Implementing customer-driven solutions like **Skip-the-Trip**, which uses a web-based testing system in partnerships with local schools to allow teens to take the knowledge test for their instruction permit in their own school, and the **Truck Parking Information Management**

**System**, a system that through a simple app will give truck drivers real-time information on available truck parking at public and private parking locations to improve driver safety and reduce time spent searching for parking spots. (The public release of the app will be in January and will be marketed as **“Trucks Park Here.”**)

**Budget.** I shared this last year, but I think it’s worth repeating for folks that may not be familiar with our budget and funding. As any of you know our funding comes from the Road Use Tax Fund (a fund that’s comprised primarily of vehicle fuel tax receipts and vehicle registration fees), but we can’t just dip into that as we choose – our funding must be specifically allocated and approved by the legislature through the budget approval process. That includes the total operational funding we receive, the number of FTEs (full time equivalents – each FTE is equal to a full-time position) we are allocated, and the salary funding we are allocated to support those FTEs. The Road Use Tax Fund by statute is split between the state, cities, and counties, with 47.5% of the Road Use Tax Fund allocated to the state as the Primary Road Fund. About 87% of our budget comes from the Primary Road Fund and covers activities that are devoted primarily to the primary road system that we are responsible for. The remaining 13% is allocated directly from the Road Use Tax Fund and covers activities that benefit the state more generally (primarily Motor Vehicle Division and Motor Vehicle Enforcement functions). Funds in the Primary Road Fund that are not allocated to our operational budget are available for programming for road and bridge projects in the five-year highway program.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PRESENTATION 

**BUDGET SUMMARY** *(\$000 omitted)*

ITEM	FY2019 BUDGET	ADJUSTMENTS	FY2020 REQUEST	ADJUSTMENTS	FY2021 REQUEST
Operations	\$346,593	\$1,632	\$348,225	\$1,264	\$349,489
Special Purpose	\$29,322	\$(2,645)	\$26,677	\$14	\$26,691
Capital	\$5,790	\$25,511	\$31,301	\$(16,014)	\$15,287
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$381,705</b>	<b>\$24,498</b>	<b>\$406,203</b>	<b>\$(14,736)</b>	<b>\$391,467</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,730</b>

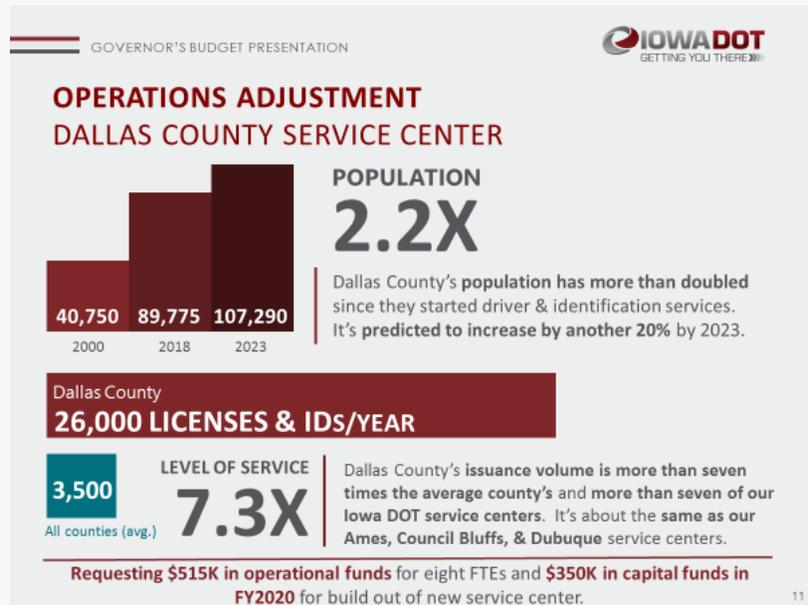
Our proposed overall budget for FY2020 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020) is presented to the left; as you can see the total budget is \$406,203,000, with a total operational budget of \$348,225,000 and a small increase of eight FTEs to 2,730 total FTEs. Because we submit two-year budget proposals, the table also includes our proposed budget for FY2021 (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021). Although there are a number of details in our proposed budget, the main adjustments from FY2019 to FY2020 and FY2020 to FY2021

came in three areas – a proposed **new driver’s license & identification service center in Dallas County**, **consolidation of District 3 facilities in the Sioux City area**, and **utility improvements and consolidation of facilities in our NW wing in Ames**. The following provides some detail about each.

**New driver’s license service center in Dallas County.** As many of you know, we provide driver & identification service centers in the most populous areas of the state, and county treasurer’s provide services in counties in which we do not have a service center (right now we have 17 service centers in 16

counties – two in Polk County – and county treasurers provide service in the other 83 counties, working as our agents via intergovernmental agreements authorized by Chapter 321M of the Iowa Code). Dallas County started offering services in 2002 but their population and service demands have grown explosively – the population there has more than doubled since then and will grow another 20% in the next five years (from 40,000 in 2002 to a projected 107,000 in 2023), and that has created service demands that far exceed what can be effectively managed under the county treasurer model. Their current and future issuance volumes are about 26,000 licenses and IDs a year, which is more than seven times the average county volume (about 3,500 per year) and is also more than seven of our service centers and comparable to our Ames, Council Bluffs, and Dubuque service centers. Dallas County officials have asked us to assume services there and we agree that would be appropriate, so our FY20 budget includes an adjustment for an additional eight FTEs (full-time equivalents) and \$515K in operational funds for positions needed to staff the service center and \$350K in capital funds to build out a new leased facility. We expect to open the new service center by January 1, 2020, and will be searching for a location in the Waukee to Adel area.

**Consolidation of Sioux City area highway facilities.** Consistent with steps we have taken to reduce our physical footprint in other districts throughout the state, we are proposing to consolidate five District 3 facilities into a single facility – the current District 3 main office, the Leeds and Hamilton garages, and the Leeds resident construction engineer's office. All these



Budget slide for the proposed Dallas County service center.

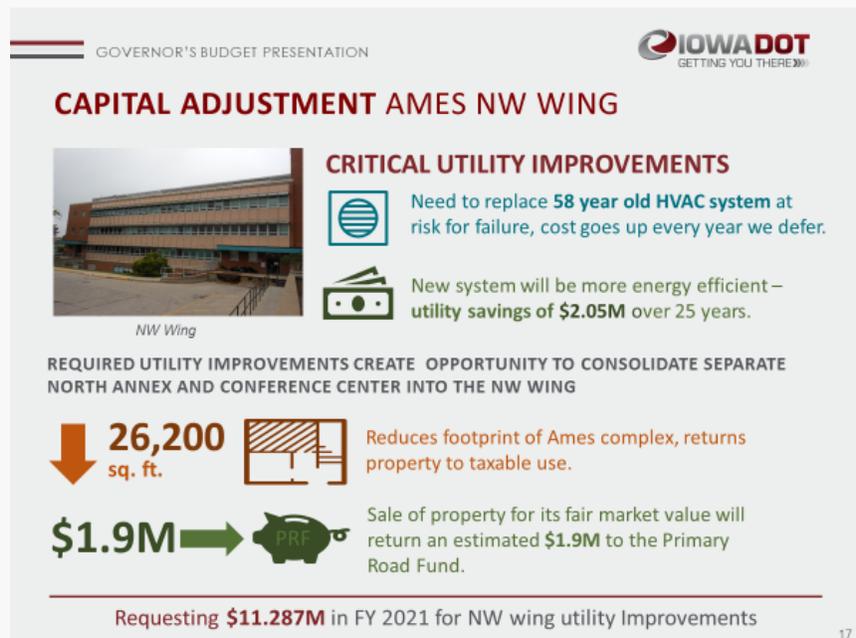


Budget slide for proposed consolidated facility in Sioux City.

facilities are 40 to 60 years old; consolidating will let us avoid duplication of facilities and common spaces, better coordinate and collaborate staff, move the facilities out of what are now inconvenient residential and commercial areas to a location with better access to the highway system, and create garage space that's large enough to accommodate the larger modern equipment we are now using. Our FY2020 budget includes a capital adjustment of \$26.951M to construct the new facility; sale of the existing facilities will return those properties to taxable use and will return an estimated \$1.376M to the Primary Road Fund. We also expect to avoid \$3.798M in major maintenance to existing facilities over the next 15 years, which will also inure to the benefit of the Primary Road Fund. We expect to start design in the fall of 2019 and be ready to occupy the new facility by the fall of 2022 or the spring of 2023. The proposed new location is on existing property we own just east of US 20/US 75 interchange and north of US 20.

**Utility improvements for the Ames NW wing.** The NW wing of the main building in Ames has a 58-year old HVAC system that needs to be replaced. We're at the point that it's at risk of failure and the cost to replace it will continue to increase if we continue to defer replacement. Replacing it will require renovation of the interior, which gives us the opportunity to reorganize the space and move conference and office space that's currently in the separate north annex buildings across the street on Lincoln Way into the northwest wing. We can then sell those buildings, which will reduce our physical footprint in Ames by about 26,000 square feet and return an estimated \$1.9M to the Primary Road Fund. We also expect to recoup utility savings of \$2.05M over the next 25 years with a more efficient HVAC system and building skin. Our FY2021 budget includes a capital adjustment of \$11.287M for these improvements. We expect to start this work in the fall of 2020 and to complete the project by the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.

Like last year, I was proud of our collective accomplishments and humbled to present them on behalf of everyone, and pleased that our proposed budget promises continued stability. If you have any questions about the budget or specific proposals don't hesitate to ask.



GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PRESENTATION

**IOWA DOT**  
GETTING YOU THERE

## CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT AMES NW WING

**CRITICAL UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

- Need to replace **58 year old HVAC system** at risk for failure, cost goes up every year we defer.
- New system will be more energy efficient – utility savings of **\$2.05M** over 25 years.

*NW Wing*

REQUIRED UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS CREATE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE SEPARATE NORTH ANNEX AND CONFERENCE CENTER INTO THE NW WING

- 26,200 sq. ft.** Reduces footprint of Ames complex, returns property to taxable use.
- \$1.9M** Sale of property for its fair market value will return an estimated **\$1.9M** to the Primary Road Fund.

Requesting **\$11.287M** in FY 2021 for NW wing utility Improvements

*Budget slide for the Ames NW wing utility improvements*

## Plan for some recognition – 2018 Planning Awards



*Stu Anderson, Planning,  
Programming & Modal  
Division Director*

Last month, several cooperative planning initiatives at the Iowa DOT were recognized with 2018 Iowa Planning Awards by the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association. The projects are summarized below and each of them demonstrates outstanding collaborative work across divisions and offices in the department.

### **Best Practice: Transit Stop Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance**

**Application.** As part of an Office of Design and Office of Employee Services led effort to update our annual ADA Transition Plan, the Office of Public Transit, the Office of Systems Planning, and a consultant team undertook an initiative to assess ADA compliance at all public transit stops located on DOT-owned right-of-way. Utilizing in-house expertise and subject matter experts, a tablet-based application was developed to inventory over 800 public transit stops. The consultant team then completed the inventory that identified ADA compliance issues and included an estimate of costs to address those issues. Summary reports were then automatically generated and will be used to assist updating the next ADA Transition Plan.

**Transportation: Iowa in Motion 2045.** The Transportation Commission's most recent multimodal long-range transportation planning effort, [Iowa in Motion 2045](#), represented a transformation for the department. The plan, which was developed in-house, promotes the Commission and department's mission of mobility and stewardship of a safe, efficient, and sustainable multimodal transportation system. This vision was strongly supported and further refined through extensive stakeholder and public input, and the plan has quickly transitioned into impactful implementation activities. These changes are being manifested in rapidly evolving project development and programming processes and support sustainable investment through asset management and performance-based decision-making.

**Public Outreach: Strategic Highway Safety Plan.** Led by the Office of Traffic and Safety and supported by the Office of Systems Planning and a consultant team, Iowa's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) public involvement process was designed to gather interdisciplinary input and diverse guidance through consultation with federal, state, local, and private sector safety stakeholders. The ultimate result of this effort was to create a process to gather a broad spectrum of professional input for the prioritization of resources when developing safety strategies at the State level. Seven 'Live Polls' and five 'Static Polls' were conducted, thus totaling in the engagement of eight focus stakeholder groups, with over 600 individual stakeholders responding.

Congratulations to all involved in these excellent projects!

## A hot idea – self-heating, electrically conductive concrete

Some of you may have noticed that we closed and reconstructed the driveway into the Ames' complex south driveway off 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Although it may have looked like an ordinary concrete project, it was far from it – the new driveway is part of a demonstration project to test the performance of electrically conductive concrete. Here's the executive summary from the demonstration project, which is being

conducted with PROSPER (the Program for Sustainable Pavement Engineering & Research) at ISU's Institute for Transportation (InTrans) and will run through April 2020:

*Highway agency staff are always in search of innovative, implementable, and cost-effective solutions to address their winter pavement maintenance issues and challenges. Considering the economic implications of even partially shut-down bridges, roadways, and highways due to ice/snow, combined with the negative impacts of applying deicing salts to pavement surfaces during snow and ice events, there is a critical need for an alternative ice and snow removal technology that is dependable, fast, cost-effective, and has minimal impact on the environment. Recent research studies have tried to address this need through the development of mechanical material modification and thermal- and electrical-based technologies. Among these, the development of so-called self-heating concrete surfaces, by enabling the concrete to be electrically conductive, has gained attention with potential applications for driveways,*

*sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, city and county roads, state highways, and airport pavements. The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) maintains thousands of linear miles of roadway and several properties across Iowa including roadways, roadway shoulders, maintenance shops, and rest areas. The versatility of the electrically conductive concrete (ECON) technology is such that it can be custom-designed and optimized for all these specific transportation infrastructure applications. The primary objective of this research is to conduct a full-scale field demonstration of the ECON technology and its*



*Google earth image showing the project area. 4<sup>th</sup> Street is to the south at the bottom of the image. Note the project includes a control section of "regular" concrete immediately north of the electrically conductive section.*



*This photo shows electrodes being installed before the electrically conductive layer was poured.*



*The electrically conductive mix includes carbon fiber, which is an electrically conductive agent.*

*and issues faced during the full-scale construction of electrically conductive concrete*

*efficient deicing benefits for cities, county roadways, and state highways in Iowa. Expected benefits from this research include the following:*

- *A cost-effective methodology for producing electrically conductive concrete for Iowa pavement snow and ice removal application*
- *An understanding of electrically conductive concrete at different scales (cement paste, mortar, and concrete) and their properties*
- *Optimization of electrically conductive concrete system design and configuration*
- *Detailed insights into the challenges*

This is a solution that has a lot of promise in many applications, and it's exciting to be directly involved in this demonstration project. If you have a chance, carefully brave an inclement winter day and see it in action!

### IowaWORKS at the Iowa DOT



*Lee Wilkison,  
Administrative Service  
Division Director*

Director Lowe, commonly known as Mark, was contacted by Beth Townsend, Director of the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) regarding the possibility of locating one of their IowaWORKS Service Centers on the campus of the Iowa DOT here in Ames. As Mark and I discussed the idea, I must admit it was something I really wanted to see happen. What I had not shared with Mark was that my father spent 31 years working for then Job Service of Iowa up until he passed away and one of my brothers spent most of his career working for them as well. I also interned there when I was in college (just a couple of years ago). So, I have a very personal connection with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD).

The center is housed in the Conference Center just north of the Main Complex. At this location IWD will be able to help customers with resumes, job searching and applications, and basic career guidance. They will also have the opportunity to connect them to resources that will allow them to enhance their skill-set through education and training so that they can find self-sustaining employment. IWD will also be offering workshops that will teach their customers a multitude of soft and job seeking skills.

*"I am thrilled to expand IowaWORKS services to Ames, a location we have long wanted to provide services to. We appreciate our partnership with the Iowa Department of Transportation who made this location possible," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Co-locating our team*

---

*with the conference center serves to make the best use of our state's resources and makes it easier for Iowans to connect with the services we and partner agencies provide."*

It is a great opportunity for the Iowa DOT and Iowa Workforce Development to come together in a unique way to serve the citizens of Iowa. A special thanks to Mike Harvey and his staff in Support Services as well as our IT staff for making this happen.

## Song of the month

To celebrate Mary's big news, I was inclined to go with a wedding-type song, and Bruno Mars' "Marry You" quickly came to mind. But I decided to dig a little deeper, so this month I'm going with The Proclaimers' 1994 "Let's Get Married." Sometimes called the Scottish Everly Brothers (Iowa connection – The Everly Brothers were from Shenandoah, Iowa), The Proclaimers are probably better known for "I'm On My Way" (featured prominently in *Shrek*) and "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)", both of which are also worth checking out, but this little-known anthem to engagement has their signature jaunty, acoustic, beat-driven sound. We'll see if they play it at the reception.

## Wellness tip

There's a great new program that promotes the new *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* called "Move Your Way." Move Your Way "emphasizes that even small amounts of physical activity have big health benefits – including some immediate benefits like better sleep, improved focus, better mood, and reduced stress," and also focus on the role of physical activity in managing chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. And while it advocates adults get at least 150 minutes of activity that increase your heart rate every week, as well muscle strengthening activities that make your muscles work harder than normal at least two days a week, it also recognizes that we all have many things to do and that it can be hard to find the time to engage in special exercise programs that do those things. That's why it smartly advocates working exercise into regular, daily activities. Their website includes tips for fitting more activity into your day and an interactive tool that will help you build a weekly activity plan. It also includes guidelines and resources to help keep your kids active. Check their website out at <https://health.gov/moveyourway/> -- it has some great, accessible suggestions you can follow at home or at work. "

\* \* \* \* \*

Well, my friends, we have once again reached the end of the report. Thank you to everyone that contributed and for all that you do. Stay safe!

Best,

*Mark*