



TO: Email Address
FROM: Local Systems Bureau Staff
SUBJECT: Iowa DOT COVID-19 Related Construction Updates
DATE: March 27, 2020

Below is a summary of key take-aways from a meeting between the Iowa DOT Construction Bureau and the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Iowa that took place on Thursday March 19, 2020. These key points are intended to reflect the Iowa DOT Local Systems Bureau's direction for Federal-aid, Federal-aid Swap, Farm-to-Market (FM) and State-aid projects. They may also help provide groundwork for your own internal discussions and prioritizations. The full notes and correspondence can be found [here](#).

Technical Training:

* All Technical Training and Certification Program (TTCP) classes, at all locations, have been cancelled through April 10, 2020.

- Scheduled classes beyond April 10 will be evaluated later.
- Registration fees will be reimbursed for cancelled classes and those affected will have their certifications extended through December 31, 2020.
- Please see the [TTCP Website](#) for the most recent updates.

* Self-directed online Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Basics course will be accepted as an alternative to the in-person certification-level class until further notice, due to the uncertainty of an April 16, 2020 in-person certification-level class.

* AGC of Iowa has postponed the March 25, 2020 Traffic Control Technician (TCT) course. A waiver has been granted specific to those enrolled in this canceled class and can be found [here](#).

Preconstruction Meetings:

* Starting immediately, it is recommended that all preconstruction meetings be held remotely via conference call, Skype, or other online meeting application. Documents and files typically exchanged at the preconstruction meeting should be emailed in advance of the meeting.

* Include discussion of hygiene tips such as recent recommendations, washing hands, frequent port-o-pot cleaning, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

* Include discussion of “social distancing” onsite, including maintaining 6-foot separation and no hand shaking.

* The [AGC Website](#) has a lot of information you can also reference. AGC of Iowa has shared a March 18, 2020 Recommended Practices on Jobsites Handout in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

* APAI, ILPA, IRMCA, and ICPA have jointly shared a March 25, 2020 [Recommended Best Practices for Highway Construction Worksites](#) Handout.

Construction Operations and Precautionary Measures:

* Iowa DOT is currently continuing business as usual, while implementing social distancing and hygiene tips on jobsites. See above preconstruction meeting talking points & AGC recommendations.

* At this time, and unless instructed otherwise by a higher authority, Iowa DOT plans to maintain the continuity of our operations, including the letting process, continuing work on active construction projects, and starting new projects this construction season without delay.

- If your County or City has directed you otherwise, and it will impact a State-aid, Swap, FM or Federal-aid project, please contact your [Local Systems Field Engineer](#). Timely communication and documentation will be key to mitigating potential funding impacts.

* If significant impacts to contractors’ workforces develop, timely communication to the Project Engineer and Local Systems Field Staff is key and essential for everyone’s safety, and any situation-specific mitigation efforts.

AGC Concerns regarding Potential Future Impacts & Iowa DOT Response:

* Material delays and shortages, such as bridge beams, etc.

- Iowa DOT is committed to work with any contractors who experience such impacts to critical path work and consider appropriate administrative relief on a project-by-project basis. Coordination with FHWA may be necessary for Federal-aid projects.

- Emphasis on the need for timely communication of any such impacts to the Project Engineer and Local Systems Field Staff to best mitigate or manage these issues.

* Key contractor staff, such as a crane operator, who could impact critical path items if skilled replacement operators are not available.

- Iowa DOT is committed to work with any contractors who experience such impacts affecting critical path items and consider administrative relief on a project-by-project basis. Coordination with FHWA may be necessary for Federal-aid projects.

- Emphasis on the need for timely communication of any such impacts to the Project Engineer and Local Systems Field Staff to best mitigate or manage these issues.

Project Prioritization:

* If broader COVID-19 impacts effect materials availability and/or the transportation industry workforce, whether Iowa DOT, local agencies, contractor, subcontractor, or supply-chain personnel, the potential to prioritize active construction projects will be needed.

* Iowa DOT will prioritize critical projects that most impact public safety and mobility for timely completion in terms of available personnel and materials as necessary. Project-specific administrative relief will be evaluated for the non-prioritized projects, or any project that experiences COVID-19 related delays or postponements.

- Iowa DOT, in consultation with FHWA, may discuss project-specific waivers of the 30% performance requirement for effected prime contractors as a tool to add resources though additional subcontracts, if necessary.

- Projects currently under Development may also become impacted by this and require prioritization. More information will be shared if/when it becomes available.

* Timely processing of payment for completed and accepted work, and reimbursement requests on active projects will remain essential and critical business functions for Iowa DOT to maintain.

Wes Musgrove provided a statement at the end of his email to the AGC of Iowa, and we can't think of any better way to say this, so we'll end with this quote from him. "On behalf of the department, AGC, and the broader construction industry, it is our sincere and mutual goal to continue to work on active projects, start new projects without delay, and in fact be ready and in position to take on more work should the opportunity present itself. While there may be instances of disruption due to worker illness, materials availability, and other

health and safety concerns, we are committed to work together for the benefit of public safety and mobility, and the economy. As Director Marler has encouraged us, we will overcome this... together.” - Wes Musgrove, P.E., Construction and Materials Bureau Director

We understand this is a rapidly changing situation. For the most current information, visit trusted sources such as the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [Iowa Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#). Please be sure to reach out to any of us should you have concerns or questions.

Local Systems Bureau Staff
Iowa DOT

https://iowadot.gov/local_systems/org_chart.pdf



Local Systems Bureau
800 Lincoln Way | Ames, IA, 50010
515-239-1528

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