

# PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

## CALENDAR - STATE FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30)

### JULY

- 01 State Fiscal Year Begins
- 01 Record actual odometer readings for each transit agency prior to start of service (unless after end of service on June 30)
- 01 Contingency Fleet Plans due, if applicable
- 15 Year End Odometer Report due
- 25 Regional/Small Urban Systems Quarterly Charter Report due
- 30 4th Quarter Fuel Tax Report due
- 30 Large Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due to FTA
- 30 Large Urban Quarterly TrAMS Reports (if in TMA) due to FTA

### AUGUST

- 01 Large Urban System DBE (Next FFY) goals to FTA
- 15 4th Quarter Statistical Report of Year End Statistical Report due

\*\*\*THIS FULL CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND IN THE TRANSIT MANAGER'S HANDBOOK <https://iowadot.gov/transit/handbook/TMHandbookBinder.pdf>

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### 2025 IPTA ANNUAL MEETING & TRAINING CONFERENCE:

This year the annual meeting will be at the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel & Conference Center for the conference and on the campus of the University of Iowa for the Rodeo. IPTA is utilizing a new ticket system for this year's event. One ticket = one registration/attendee. You are able to purchase multiple attendee tickets at the same time, and attendee registration is FREE. You can register at <https://2025iptaannualconference.eventify.io/t2/tickets/D75A2B,DA3268,241A79,FE44B0,557AA3>

### TRANSIT RETREAT:

Registration is now open for the Transit Retreat that is being held in Des Moines, Iowa from June 25, 2025, to June 26, 2025. For more information and to register go to <https://www.transitretreat.org/>

### MARKETING TEMPLATES

Have you checked out the NRTAP marketing toolkit? The toolkit was recently updated. There is information for using CANVA for designing transit marketing materials, including but not limited to brochures, schedules, and social media. CANVA is a web based free software with design templates for non-designers; NRTAP also created transit specific templates. There is a library of stock images and illustrations. There is also a video and written directions for using the NRTAP templates. <https://www.nationalrtap.org/Toolkits/Marketing-Toolkit/How-To-Guide-For-Marketing-Transit>

### ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES AND WEBSITE BUILDER

NRTAP updated its Website Accessibility Video Training on Color Contrast, PDF Documents, and Links, Images, and Alt Text. The video series focus on websites that use NRTAP's Website Builder tool and hosting service, but the information can be applied to other website platforms. More information can be found here: <https://www.nationalrtap.org/Technology-Tools/Website-Builder/Support>

## TRANSIT SPOTLIGHT

### JACOB BLACK TRANSIT INTERN

I am Jacob Black and I have just started my internship at the DOT working in the Public Transit Bureau! I am currently going into my Junior year at Iowa State University, majoring in Community & Regional Planning, with an interest in land use planning and transportation planning. I am from Jefferson, New Jersey and somehow ended up going to school in Iowa. I like to spend my free time hanging out with friends, cooking, exploring places, hiking, playing video games, and going to the gym.

With this internship I hope to learn more about how public transit systems are planned, funded, and improved to serve communities more effectively on a statewide level. I am more of a hands-on learner so this will be a great opportunity for me to learn and grow in the fields I want to go into!



## Public Transit: 2025 Commission Timeline

	25-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	25-Apr	25-May	25-Jun	25-Jul	25-Aug	25-Sep	25-Oct	25-Nov	25-Dec	Jan-26
<b>FFY 2024 Transit Program (vehicle replacement)</b>					Brent								
Applications Received (consolidated app due May 1)													
Bus Applications Review (TIP)													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>Public Transit Infrastructure Grants (PTIG)</b>					Brent								
Applications Received (consolidated app due May 1)													
Applications Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>FFY 26 STA Special Projects Program</b>							Kristin						
Calculate available \$\$ for STA Special Projects and post in BlackCat													
Applications Due Oct 1													
Application Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>CY 2026 Intercity Bus Program</b>					Matt		Matt						
ICB proposed funding changes to Commission workshop													
Calculate available \$\$ for ICB, NOFO - send out August 1													
Applications Due Oct 1													
Application Review													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													
<b>5339 Discretionary Grants</b>					Emma								
Tentative Dates - FTA dependent													
NOFO													
Application preparation													
FTA award announcement													
Commission workshop													
Commission approval													

Status of Grants		
Grant Name	TrAMS Grant Status	Contracts Status
ICAAP Projects	FTA approved 2/24/2025	Contracts Out
FFY 2024 5311 (FY25 5311 Formula and CY25 ICB)	FTA approved 3/3/2025	Contracts Out
FFY 2024 5310 (FY25 5310 Rural and Urban Formula)	FTA approved 4/04/2025	
FY2024 5311 Grant Amendment with R1, R13, Muscatine - SRTS funds from Nebraska	FTA approved 4/17/2025	
DART Transit Shelters TAP	Transmitted 11/19/2024	
Flex Funds from MAPA	Transmitted 4/16/25	
FFY 2023 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	
FFY 2022 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	
FFY 2022 Bus Replacement Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	
FFY 2024 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula 5339	Transmitted 4/10/25	
Section 5310 On-Demand and Flex Connect Public Transit Services (HIRT A ICAM)	Transmitted 4/10/25	
FFY 2022 5339 Discretionary - HIRT A Ute Avenue	Transmitted 4/8/25	
1812-2025-10 Carbon Reduction Program Vehicles	Transmitted 4/30/2025	
FFY 2024 Carbon Reduction Program	Submittal pending FHWA Transfer	
SFY 2026 IRXB - CMAQ funding amendment (Interregional Express Bus (IRX Bus-380 Year 8)	Submittal pending FHWA Transfer	

**Transit Managers: Please forward Iowa DOT emails to pertinent staff within your organization. Emails with training or other announcements are sent only to transit managers with the expectation they will be forwarded to the correct staff members in your organization. Your help is greatly appreciated so everyone gets the news and information they need.**

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL TRANSIT DAY

The Iowa DOT would like to thank all of the hard working rural transit employees who help  
"Make Lives Better Through Transportation."



### TAKE THE RURAL TRANSIT DAY PLEDGE

On Rural Transit Day (July 16) and every day throughout the year, I/we pledge to:

1. *Understand the unique needs of rural and tribal passengers and plan services to meet those needs.*
2. *Provide all passengers with helpful, courteous, and respectful customer service.*
3. *Coordinate with community organizations to provide transportation to as many destinations as possible.*
4. *Involve passengers, community stakeholders, and elected officials in service planning.*
5. *Assure that vehicles and facilities are safe, clean, well-maintained, and comfortable.*
6. *Invest in training and education that keep staff current, knowledgeable, and skilled.*
7. *Contribute to an organizational culture where staff are motivated and successful.*
8. *Have a plan for potential emergencies and disasters and communicate that plan to all stakeholders.*
9. *Keep up with and invest in new technologies and funding opportunities to continually improve services.*



**#RuralTransitDay**



**#RuralTransitDay**



## KRISTIN'S KEYWORDS

One thing every member of Iowa DOT's transit team can say is that we're never bored. Ever. There is always a unique question to answer or new rule or regulation to follow. And, when staff vacancies arise, while we are sad to see our co-worker move on, it does offer an occasion to learn work tasks not experienced before. During my 15 years at the Iowa DOT, I've had the opportunity to fill in nearly every position on our transit team. Covering the tasks of vacant positions has made me more insightful about the type of person who might be a good fit for the position, more knowledgeable about the work required, and more realistic in expectations of what can be accomplished. Of course, it also makes me appreciate the new employee even more once the position is filled!

Temporarily filling a vacancy with new duties to learn also causes me to acknowledge and respect all the hats you as Transit Managers must wear each day. Many of you are doing dispatching, writing a Title VI Program, sending in DBE projections, establishing a budget, scheduling vehicles for service, ensuring the random drug and alcohol testing is done, and driving routes when a driver calls in sick for the day. My hat's off to

you, the ones whose job description could have 'other duties as assigned' as the only entry.

At the meeting of the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) Review Board in April, I officially became the Chair of the Board. I've served on the Review Board for three and half years and will be chair for 18 months. During my time on the Review Board, I don't feel as though I've done a good job touting the wealth of information available to transit employees through National RTAP. As the name suggests, the materials do focus on areas of need to rural and tribal public transit systems, but most of the information is applicable to all transit agencies, no matter the size, and is free. Training topics range from procurement to marketing to ADA to preventative vehicle maintenance and everything in between. I would encourage new and experienced transit agency staff to check out [www.nationalrtap.org](http://www.nationalrtap.org) next time you want to learn something new about public transit. National RTAP also holds a conference every other year. This year's conference is in Austin, Texas, December 7-10 and I would love to see lots of Iowans there!

As always, thank you for all you do for public transit in Iowa.

- *Kristin*



## 2025 PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

And just like that, another Passenger Transportation Summit is in the books!

The 2025 Iowa Passenger Transportation Summit was held on May 13, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. Thank you to all who attended this year's event. Throughout the day we heard from some wonderful speakers on Employment Transportation, Passenger Transportation Planning, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, and the HIRTA Health Connector Project. We had a good turn-out, and I hope that everyone who was able to make it, enjoyed the day.

## IOWA RIDESHARE

<https://iowarideshare.org/>

### WHO TO CONTACT

Tammy Nicholson, Modal Transportation Bureau Director  
[tamara.nicholson@iowadot.us](mailto:tamara.nicholson@iowadot.us)

Kristin Haar, Public Transit Director  
[kristin.haar@iowadot.us](mailto:kristin.haar@iowadot.us)

Brent Paulsen, Transit Programs Manager  
[brent.paulsen@iowadot.us](mailto:brent.paulsen@iowadot.us)

Grants Manager - VACANT

Emma Simmons, Transit Planner  
[emma.simmons@iowadot.us](mailto:emma.simmons@iowadot.us)

### FIND YOUR TPA!

Amy Colwell, Administrative Assistant  
[amy.colwell@iowadot.us](mailto:amy.colwell@iowadot.us)

Jamie Wingert, Compliance and Training Specialist  
[jamie.wingert@iowadot.us](mailto:jamie.wingert@iowadot.us)

Laura Lutz-Zimmerman, Transit Programs Administrator  
[laura.lutzzimmerman@iowadot.us](mailto:laura.lutzzimmerman@iowadot.us)

Matt Oetker, Transit Programs Administrator  
[matt.oetker@iowadot.us](mailto:matt.oetker@iowadot.us)

Jacob Black, Transit Intern  
[jacob.black@iowadot.us](mailto:jacob.black@iowadot.us)