



IPTA Annual Meeting

IOWA | DOT

Iowa DOT
Public Transit Section

July 16, 2025

Iowa DOT Public Transit Introductions

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Iowa DOT Public Transit Introductions

Amelia Bea Simmons
daughter of
Emma and Hunter Simmons

Born July 2, 2025
6:41 p.m.
4lb, 2oz
17 inches long

Emma will be on maternity
leave until the end of
September



Iowa DOT Public Transit Team Year in Review

- ✓ State Management Review in August 2024 with four findings, with all corrections submitted by February 2025 deadline
- ✓ Exhibited at the Make Your Mark conference
- ✓ Started Transit Tidbits in November 2024
- ✓ Exhibited at the Iowa Seizure Smart Conference
- ✓ National Transit Database annual reporting for 30 providers
- ✓ On-going preliminary planning and NEPA requirements work with FTA on 9 projects (8 facilities and bus stops in one community)

Iowa DOT Public Transit Team

Year in Review

- ✓ On-going participation in planning meetings for a streetcar and a new 380 Express stop
- ✓ Two Transit Manager Handbook Trainings
- ✓ Contracted with inTrans at Iowa State University to provide three transit training opportunities over the next year
- ✓ Passenger Transportation Summit, May 13
- ✓ Presented new Intercity Bus application guidance to Iowa Transportation Commission, effective CY2026
- ✓ Completed an electric bus procurement, now available for orders from Iowa DOT's website

Iowa DOT Public Transit Team

Year in Review

- ✓ Conferences/training:
 - APTA Mobility Conference
 - National RTAP Review Board Meetings
 - CTAA PASS Workshop hosted by Iowa DOT
 - Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

FY2024 Public Transit Ridership and Miles

- Regional: 2,197,514 Rides and 11,105,009 Revenue Miles
- Urban: 17,093,350 Rides and 14,464,977 Revenue Miles
- TOTAL: 19,284,864 Rides and 25,569,986 Revenue Miles

Rides increased by 1,943,392 from FY 2023 and Revenue Miles increased by 446,679.

By comparison, in FY 2019, 23.8 Million Rides and 29.9 Million Revenue Miles were provided

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal

- In FFY 2024, the DBE participation rate was 0.00%. The triennial goal covering that period was 0.14%.
- The proposed DBE goal for FFYs 2026-2028 is available for public review and comment until July 29.

The proposed goal is 0.85%.

- The DBE projections provided by the small urban and regional transit systems and MPOs and RPAs, plus the availability of certain categories of businesses as certified DBEs combine in the calculations to arrive at this goal.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

- The Iowa DBE Directory can be found here:

<https://secure.iowadot.gov/DBE/Home/Index/>

This is a convenient tool which can allow virtually instant look-up of eligible businesses based on both geography and goods/service(s) provided.

- Please look at the DBE Directory when soliciting opportunities for bids and include those businesses in your outreach.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

NAICS Codes are a numerical system for classifying labor and/or commodities. You can peruse this section if you are looking for a business that provides a type of good or service.

DIRECTORY SEARCH PAGE

Search By ...

FIRM NAME

NAICS CODE

WORK TYPE

Or View All Directory Listings

Full Directory

You can check specific businesses, perhaps ones you are already engaged with to determine their DBE status here

If you want to search by a specific type of service performed or good provided, you can search by "WORK TYPE" to find eligible DBEs organically without having a constrained list to pull from.

Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC) New Member

- Iowa DOT's PTAC has five representatives: (1) Large Urban over 200,000 population, (1) Large Urban over 50,000, (1) Small Urban, and (2) Regional
- Terms are three years in length and a member may serve up to four terms. Members are either peer- or self-nominated with final selection by Modal Transportation Bureau Director
- Iowa DOT would like to welcome Amy Fortenbacher of MuscaBus as the new Small Urban representative, replacing Dennis Hart of Clinton MTA who's term expired June 30
- Other PTAC Members include Erin Hockman, DART; Barb Neal, CyRide; Hugh Lively, RIDES; and Brian Pearson, SRTS

Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC)

- PTAC's purpose is discussion of transit funding and policy issues
- The PTAC meets four times a year, as needed, in February, May, August, and November

Iowa DOT Administrative Rules

- In 2023, Governor Reynolds issued Executive Order 10, requiring a review by all state agencies of their administrative rules with the goal of rescinding unnecessary or burdensome regulations and reducing the number of restrictive terms.
- The Iowa Administrative Code (i.e. rules) can be found at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/administrativeRules/agencies>
- Iowa DOT has seven transit-related administrative rules: Chapters 910, 911, 920, 921, 922, 923, and 924. All seven chapters need to be through the review process by September.

Iowa DOT Administrative Rules

- At this time, the Iowa DOT is proposing to rescind Chapter 921, *Advanced Allocations of State Transit Assistance Funding*, and including the process of advanced allocation in Chapter 920, *State Transit Assistance*, instead. No STA funding changes occur due to this proposed chapter deletion, only duplicated wording and descriptions are eliminated by combining the chapters.
- Iowa DOT will seek input from stakeholders on several of the updated chapters – please watch your inbox with emails from Kristin Haar requesting that feedback

Consolidated Application

- To ensure Iowa DOT's 5310 and 5311 operating grants are submitted to the FTA with enough time for evaluation and execution prior to the annual shutdown of Trams in October of each year, Iowa DOT is reviewing the schedule for submittal of the Consolidated Application.
- The Iowa DOT staff will be evaluating the schedule early this fall and will inform the transit agencies of changes, if any, shortly thereafter.

Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Program

- Program created by 2006 General Assembly
- Funds vertical infrastructure projects for public transit
- All 35 public transit systems are eligible

Project Evaluation Criteria

- No more than 40-percent of the funds available can be awarded to an individual transit system
- Structural integrity of existing facilities
- Safety enhancements to existing facilities
- New facilities that enhance the life of the transit fleet or optimize transit service
- Projects should be “shovel ready” and capable of completion in 18 months

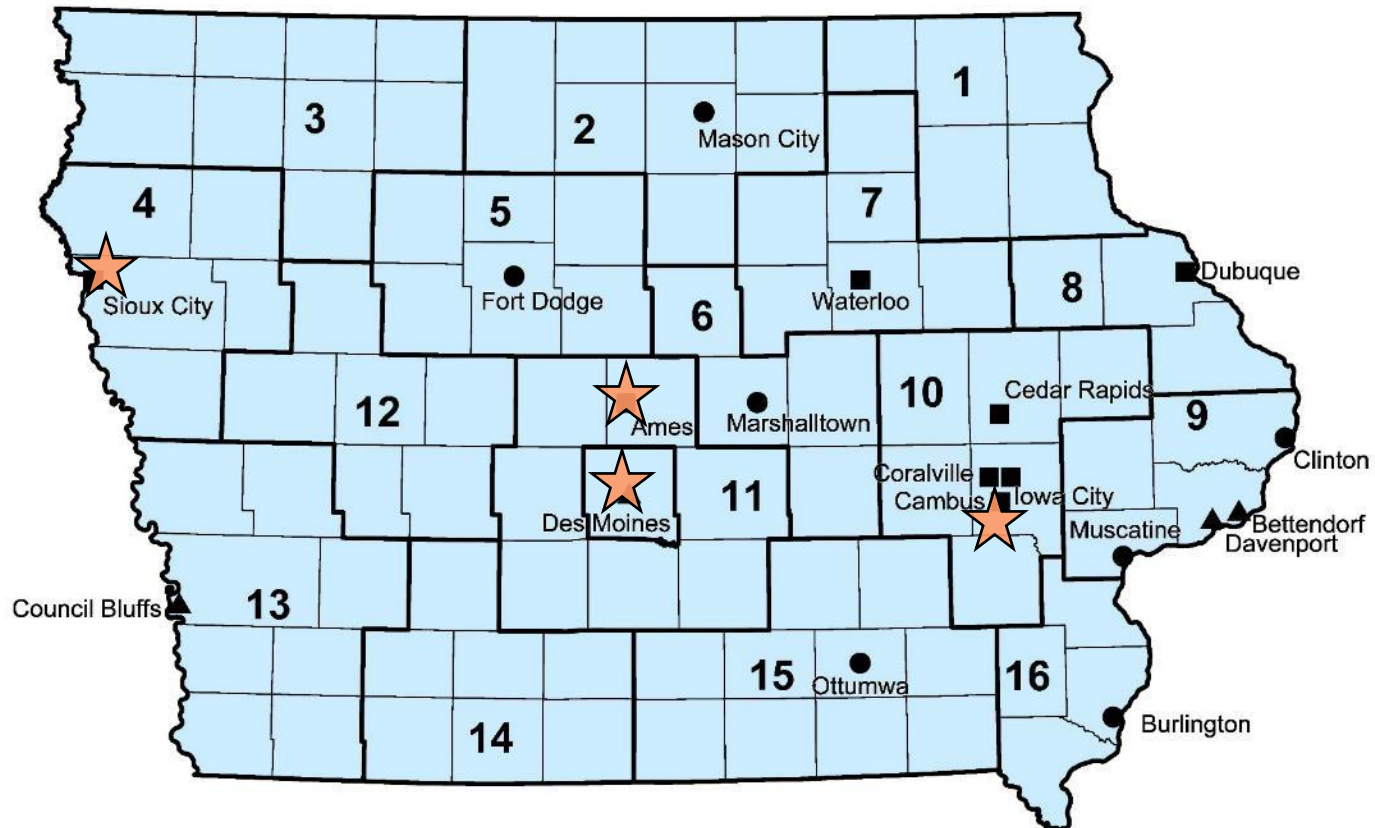
Available Funding and Application Summary

- Annual appropriation: \$1,200,000
- Underrun/withdrawals: \$215,240
- Funds available: \$1,415,240
- Total number of projects: 4
- Total project costs: \$13,271,183
- Total PTIG requested: \$1,560,000

Table of Projects Recommended For Award

Project Name	Sponsor	Total Project Cost	Requested Amount (% of Total Project Cost)	Recommended Amount (% of Total Project Cost)
Maintenance Facility Expansion and Modernization	University of Iowa, Cambus	\$12,067,590	\$600,000 (4.97%)	\$566,096 (4.69%)
In-Ground Hoist Replacement	Ames Transit Agency, Cyride	\$750,000	\$600,000 (80.00%)	\$566,096 (75.48%)
Revolving Door Replacement	Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority	\$153,593	\$120,000 (78.13%)	\$120,000 (78.13%)
Passenger Elevator Replacement	Sioux City Transit	\$300,000	\$240,000 (80.00%)	\$163,048 (54.35%)

Iowa's Public Transit System



- ▲ 4 Transit Systems in urbanized areas > 200,000 population
- 8 Transit Systems in urbanized areas 50,000 to 200,000 population
- 7 Transit Systems in small urban areas < 50,000 population
- 16 Regional Transit Systems

FTA Grants Update

Grant Name	Grant Status	Contract Status
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	Contracts Out
FY24 5311 Grant Amendment with R1, R13, Muscatine - SRTS funds from Nebraska	FTA approved 4/17/2025	Contracts Out
DART Transit Shelters TAP	FTA approved 4/29/2025	Contracts Out
IA-2025-021 5310 Flex Funds	FTA approved 5/1/2025	Contracts Out
IA-2025-019 Section 5339 Bus Grant	FTA approved 5/19/2025	Contracts Out
IA-2025-020 Section 5310 ICAM On-Demand and Flex Connect Public Transit Services	FTA approved 6/9/2025	Contracts Out
IA-2025-022 Carbon Reduction Program Vehicles	FTA approved 7/3/2025	Contracts Out

FTA Grants Update

Grant Name	Grant Status	Contract Status
FFY 2023 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	Pending Grant Approval
FFY 2022 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	Pending Grant Approval
FFY 2022 Bus Replacement Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	Pending Grant Approval
FFY2022 5339 Discretionary - HIRTA Ute Avenue	Transmitted 4/8/25	Pending Grant Approval
FFY 2025 5311 (FY26 5311 Formula) excluding -CY26 ICB)	Transmitted 5/31/2025	Pending Grant Approval
FFY 2025 5310 (FY26 5310 Rural and Urban Formula)	Transmitted 5/31/2025	Pending Grant Approval
FFY24 Carbon Reduction Program	Transmitted 5/31/2025	Pending Grant Approval
SFY26 IRXB - CMAQ funding amendment (Interregional Express Bus (IRX Bus-380 Year 8)	Transmitted 6/11/2025	Pending Grant Approval
STBG Flex Funding Grant	Transmitted 7/1/2025	Pending Grant Approval

Discretionary Grant Application Approval

- For any grant application submitted by the Iowa DOT on behalf of a transit agency, the DOT must get Governor approval prior to submission
- Going forward, an executive summary and requested funding amount must be submitted to the Iowa DOT at least 30 days prior to the application deadline

Facility Planning Basis Information Sheet

- Annually, Iowa DOT will survey the transit agencies for planned facility projects
- For those facilities expected to be constructed with FTA dollars through the Iowa DOT, a facilities planning basis information sheet will need to be completed and submitted ASAP, at a minimum prior to grant submission
 - DOT can then start working with FTA to get as much NEPA work done before grant award as possible, expediting the process

FY2025 5339(b/c) Applications

- Low-No: Federal Request of \$21,051,430 million
 - 4 applicants, 3 facilities, 5 vehicles
 - Cedar Rapids Transit – 2 hybrid heavy duty buses = \$2,004,736
 - HIRTA – 1 hybrid conversion van = \$79,815
 - SRTS – 1 transit facility, 1 facility expansion, 2 light duty battery electric buses = \$9,709,175
 - SWITA – 1 transit facility = \$9,267,704
- Bus and Bus Facilities: Federal Request of \$27.8 million
 - 110 replacement vehicles

2025 Compliance Reviews

Transit Agency	Date
R1 EARL Public Transit	5/6/25
R4 SRTS	10/2/25
R5 & Fort Dodge MIDAS & DART	9/23/25
R10 CorridorRides	6/11/25
R13 SWITA	4/23/25
R15 & Ottumwa 10-15 Transit	10/21/25
Marshalltown Municipal Transit	8/6/25
Ames CyRide	6/17/25
Iowa City Transit	7/31/25
University of Iowa Cambus	7/31/25

Compliance Review Questionnaire



Updated Questionnaires for 2025

- Request all documents one week prior to scheduled review
- Combined all 5310/5311 modes into one form
 - Complete the sections that apply to your transit system
 - A section has been added related to subcontractor compliance
- Large Urban 5310 & PTIG remains as a separate questionnaire

Transit Manager Handbook Updates

Updates include:

- New format to comply with web accessibility requirements
- Updated FTA circular numbers and references to Iowa Code
- Important links are included at the end of each chapter instead of within the text
- New references to BlackCat instead of the old Iowa Public Transit Portal
- Current Iowa DOT contacts
- Calendar updated to include the July 15th odometer reading deadline

Handbook Cont....

Chapter 15 General Operations has been removed, and content has been incorporated into other relevant chapters.

Chapter 12 Training has been combined into Chapter 7 Request for Funds

Working on final edits

Will send notification when it is available on our website

Feedback and suggestions are always welcome

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Role of Iowa DOT

Chapter 2 Iowa Transit Systems

Chapter 3 Funding Programs

Chapter 4 Planning

Chapter 5 Funding Application Agreements

Chapter 6 Reporting Requirements

Chapter 7 Request for Funds

Chapter 8 Transit Service Contracting

Chapter 9 Procurement

Chapter 10 Capital Management

Chapter 11 Vehicle Operations

Chapter 12 Civil Rights

Chapter 13 Drug and Alcohol

LTAP – InTrans Training Contract

Effective May 1st

Provide three training opportunities; at least one in person

TAC committee formed and met to discuss training needs

- Cybersecurity
- Preventive Maintenance Program/Plans
- One additional training after needs assessment results

Upcoming Transit Manager Handbook Training

Tuesday, December 2nd, Noon – 5:00 p.m. & Wednesday, December 3rd, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Iowa DOT's Materials East/West Conference Room in Ames

Register by sending an email to Jamie.Wingert@iowadot.us

Fellowships are available to assist with mileage and hotel costs. Due to Amy Colwell, Amy.Colwell@iowadot.us two weeks before the first day of the training.

Lansing Bridge Closure

- IA 9 bridge over the Mississippi River closed end of May resulting in the need for passenger ferry and support shuttles.
- EARL transit stepped up and provided ground transportation on the Iowa side of the river to support passenger ferry. EARL also provided vehicles for Wisconsin shuttle service.

**A big shout out to Ken and staff in
Region 1 for going above and beyond
to support the bridge closure**

Van Pool Guidance

- Several agencies signed vanpool contracts with Enterprise. DOT is preparing a guidance document for transit agencies to ensure consistent quarterly transit statistics reporting.
- A few reminders:
 - Vanpool must be reported as a separate mode of service in NTD. To add a new mode of service, work with TPA on information to be submitted.
 - During year end review you will need to provide: SS40/50/60 data, Appendix D, Enterprise annual report
 - Be sure to double quarterly transit statistics reports against the Enterprise annual report as you prepare your 4th quarter reports.

Year End Reviews – Basis for Grant Submittals

- Vehicle mileage verification reviews begin **July 15th**
- Transit Statistics reviews begin **August 15th** starting with regional and small urban systems.
 - Year end review questionnaires will be sent out on rolling basis beginning early September.
 - This will include a review of all contracts with an emphasis on contract closure so these funds can be reallocated.
- Year end reviews for large urban systems will be completed after all regional and small urbans are complete.

Year End Reviews - Continued

- All revisions need to be complete and approved in Blackcat by **November 15th**.
****Any corrections to Blackcat statistics past this date will result in delays to the formula funding projections for all agencies.
- Approved statistics are used for formula funding projections which must be finalized and approved during the month of December for consolidated transit funding applications.

Intercity Bus Program

Iowa's program Intercity Bus program has changed. There are now two categories which are funded (described below). DOT's priority is to fund operating costs before capital expenses.

1. Iowa based Operating Deficit (including marketing).
 - 50% Federal with a 50% match.
2. Support for intercity bus capital improvements.
 - Over the road motorcoaches, vertical infrastructure, vehicle renovations/improvements, ADA improvements to vehicles and facilities.
 - ADA vehicles require a 15% match.
 - All other capital projects require 20% match.

The CY 2026 ICB Program Notice of Funding Availability will be issued on August 1, 2025 with applications due October 1, 2025

Bus Procurements

- Electric full-sized vans, light duty bus and charging station procurement contracts are being finalized with the awarded vendors. We expect the DOT website to be updated soon with contacts and the schedule of prices
- Light and medium duty bus and van procurement was extended one (1) year. The extension will expire June 30, 2026. Updated schedule of prices on the DOT website.

Thank you to everyone that responded to the survey for the next procurement. We will be kicking off the workgroup for the new procurement soon.

Open Procurements | Department of Transportation

<https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/open-procurements>

Reimbursement of Federal Share after Vehicle Sale, Continued...

- Example:
 - Vehicle sold for \$10,000.
 - Original federal participation was 83%; local match was 17%.
 - Transit agency keeps \$5,000 plus \$850 (17% of \$5,000).
 - Transit agency pays FTA the remaining \$4,150.
- Iowa DOT is hopeful that someday we will have a process in BlackCat to make these payments simpler and more timely

Questions?

A short, thick orange horizontal line is positioned below the "Questions?" header.

Iowa DOT Public Transit Section

515-233-7870

<https://iowadot.gov/transit>