

# PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

## CALENDAR - STATE FISCAL YEAR (OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31)

### OCTOBER

- 01 Intercity Bus Applications due
- 01 ICAAP Applications due to Systems Planning Bureau
- 01 STA Special Projects Applications due
- 25 Regional/Small Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due
- 30 1st Quarter Fuel Tax Report due
- 30 Regional/Small Urban System DBE (April - September) Semi-Annual Reports due
- 30 Large Urban System Quarterly Charter Report due to FTA
- 30 Large Urban Quarterly TrAMS Reports (if in TMA) due to FTA
- 30 Large Urban Annual TrAMS Report (if in 50,000 - 200,00 UZA) due to FTA

### NOVEMBER

- 01 1st Quarter Statistical Report due
- 30 Large Urban NTD Reports due to NTD

### DECEMBER

- 01 Large Urban System DBE (April - September) Semi-Annual Report due to FTA

\*\*\*THIS FULL CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND IN THE TRANSIT MANAGER'S HANDBOOK <https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/policy-regulation-legislation/transit-manager-handbook>

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### CYBERSECURITY FOR IOWA PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCIES (WEBINAR):

This two-hour interactive virtual workshop, led by the Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach (CyIO) at Iowa State University, will introduce transit agency staff to practical, scenario-based cybersecurity preparedness. It will include a brief threat landscape discussion, a scenario video to set the stage, and structured breakout room discussions where agency staff role-play through response and recovery. For registration and more information, including a more detailed description and identification of the speakers, please visit: <https://www.intrans.iastate.edu/events/cybersecurity-for-iowa-public-transit-agencies-webinar/>. If you have any questions about the registration process please reach out to Sherrie LaFleur ([slafleur@iastate.edu](mailto:slafleur@iastate.edu)) or Keith Knapp ([kknapp@iastate.edu](mailto:kknapp@iastate.edu)).

### TRANSIT MANAGER HANDBOOK TRAINING:

Save the date: December 2, 2025 - December 3, 2025. Registration will be opening in the next couple of months for the next Transit Manager Handbook Training that will be held in Ames, Iowa at the Iowa Department of Transportation building (800 Lincoln Way) in the Materials East/West conference room. Be on the lookout from an email from Jamie Wingert about registering for this class.

## PROCUREMENT AVAILABLE

The Iowa DOT is excited to announce that the procurement for ADA Accessible Electric Full-Size Van, Light-Duty Bus, and Charging Stations for Public Transit Use has been finalized and information is now available on our website. We have contracted with 7 vendors to provide ADA accessible electric vehicles for conversion vans, 25' light-duty buses, and 30' light-duty buses along with several different types of level-2 and level-3 charging stations. Information can be found on the website at: <https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/open-procurements>

## TRANSIT SPOTLIGHT

### JEREMY JOHNSON-MILLER GRANTS MANAGER

HELLO (again), it's Jeremy Johnson-Miller, your new Grants Manager in the Modal Transportation Bureau. I bring almost 15 years of transportation experience to the transit team; beginning my transit journey as a Mobility Coordinator at HIRTA Public Transit (2011-2014), then moving into the role of TPA at the Iowa DOT from 2014 to 2020.

The past four years, I served as Communications Manager at the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) - a technical assistance center funded by the FTA - supporting rural transit providers across the country by creating and leading trainings focused on the ADA and accessible transportation, as well as developing a national Mobility Management certification program under Easterseals Project Action.

I was born and raised in Iowa City and a proud University of Iowa alum. I live in Des Moines with my husband Marcus and two cocker spaniels, Archie and Walter. When not thinking about transit, you can find us on a cruise ship or hiking in the mountains! I am excited for this opportunity, this time with more experience, insight, and passion for making transit accessible for everyone.



### 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>SFY 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
FFY23/SFY24 5310	FTA approved 5/20/2024	contracts out
SFY25 IRXB - CMAQ funding amendment	FTA approved 9/5/2024	contracts out
FFY23 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Urban Vehicles	FTA approved 9/18/2024	contracts out
FFY23 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Urban Vehicles	FTA approved 9/18/2024	contracts out
FFY24 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Regional Vehicles	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY22 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula (Urban/Rural) Shortfall 5339	FTA approved 9/16/2024	contracts out except Ft Dodge, HIRTA, Muscatine
FFY22 CMAQ Urban - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY22 CMAQ Rural - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY22 CMAQ Rural - shortfall (funded with CRP)	FTA approved 8/29/2024	contracts out
FFY2023 Intercity Bus Grant Program	FTA approved 4/9/2024	contracts out
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	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
FFY 2025 5311 (FY26 5311 Formula) excluding -CY26 ICB)	FTA approved 7/29/2025	contracts out
SFY26 IRXB - CMAQ funding amendment (Interregional Express Bus (IRX Bus-380 Year 8)	FTA approved 8/13/2025	contracts out
FFY2022 5339 Discretionary - HIRTA Ute Avenue	FTA approved 8/18/2025	contracts out
STBG Flex Funding Grant	FTA approved 8/19/2025	contracts out
FFY 2025 5310 (FY26 5310 Rural and Urban Formula)	Transmitted 8/21/2025	contracts out
FFY 2023 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	contracts out
FFY 2022 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	contracts out
FFY 2022 Bus Replacement Discretionary Award 5339	Transmitted 12/10/24	contracts out
FFY24 Carbon Reduction Program	Transmitted 5/31/2025	
FFY 2023 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Discretionary Award 5339 (Amendment - Boone Facility)	TBD - Project not ready Late Fall 2025 - Requires Commission approval of CY26 projects	
FFY 2025 5311 (amendment -CY26 ICB)		



## 2025 IPTA Awards



For the regional systems, earning transit system of the year by providing the most rides per dollar of expense and rides per capita, is Region 13/SWITA.



For large urban system, with the most rides per dollar of expense and most rides per revenue dollar is CAMBUS.



For small urban system, with the most rides per dollar of expense and the largest increase in ridership from 2023 to 2024, is Ottumwa Transit.

## AMAZING RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMUNITY TO OUR TRANSIT AGENCIES

### HIRTA:

"It is important for me to remain living in my home to continue my care-giving responsibilities. My husband has dementia. He feels safe and calm here. He can be productive and active. I feel very safe getting transportation from HIRTA."

"Speaking on occasion with HIRTA drivers on the times I take a trip is delightful. Drivers are caring and willing to communicate if you would like to do so."

### IOWA CITY:

"I don't have to worry about, you know, having bus fare. So it's just easy to be able to get on and off and not have to think about that, and it's easier on my budget. "

"When I first started taking the city buses I was a student at Kirkwood, so I had to bear the cost of the semester pass for about \$100 a semester. And as someone who covers my own tuition, it was a lot to have to worry about. So fare free has been nice, to know that I can just take the bus no matter what. Not have to worry about bearing that cost every day. "

### CLINTON:

"I am writing to praise the quick and thoughtful action taken by the City of Clinton in remedying the longstanding North Bridge closure by offering free demand-response trips through the Municipal Transit Administration (MTA) to residents between Fulton and Clinton. You and I both know that the Iowa Department of Transportation has scheduled a full bridge closure from June 9 to November 2025 to perform required deck overlay work. MTA service - running on regular hours with reservations accepted 14 days in advance - is an equally effective solution that accommodates the needs of the people during this extended period of time. Since detour routes will probably increase traffic on the Highway 30 and Savanna/Sabula bridges, making public transit free reduces not only delays but also the overall strain on families, workers, seniors, and those with limited mobility. I urge the community to notice this initiative and react. Further, as we continue investing in critical infrastructure, I encourage the City Council to incorporate long-term contingency options - like shuttle buses or extended public transit hours - into future disruptions. Thinking ahead ensures equity of access and keeps our city linked to vital services and neighboring communities. Thank you to our city officials for finding a balance between upgrading infrastructure and thoughtful, community-oriented public service. Clinton's response is the definition of what civic responsibility is all about."

## KRISTIN'S KEYWORDS

Where did the summer go? It seems as though it went by in the blink of an eye! My family rented a house on a lake in Minnesota for a week in June where I was able to try kayaking for the first time. I really liked it! It was nice to get away without any plans except relaxation.

Our workloads didn't take vacations, however, so we are thrilled to have Jeremy Johnson-Miller back on the transit team after his nearly five years of experience with the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center and EasterSeals Project Action Consulting. He's already provided us with different perspectives on projects from his work around the country. Jeremy replaces Travis Estep in the role of Grant Manager with responsibilities for tracking funding in open grants, the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Also, in staff news, our summer intern has become our fall intern! Jacob Black agreed to stay on this fall as our intern and will be working with some data in BlackCat and Transit Vehicle Manufacturing reporting to FTA.

As the summer went by, one thing our team - and many of your transit agencies - was anxiously awaiting was word of FTA discretionary award obligations. The bus and bus facility grants announced in 2022 and 2023 were obligated by FTA this summer. (Obligated meaning we can execute the grant and issue contracts to spend the money.) One of the grants did require some changes in order to get it over the finish line, however. In late July, Iowa DOT wrote to FTA offering to change the previously proposed electric vehicles (EV) to standard combustion engine buses. FTA took us up on that offer and 17 EVs were changed to gas or diesel buses and the proposed associated charging stations and electrical upgrades were also removed from the grant. With the execution of these grants we are excited to see the purchase or construction of the three facilities included become a reality.

Rolling into fall, please remember that Calendar Year 2026 Intercity Bus applications and Fiscal Year 2027 State Transit Assistance Special Project applications are due through BlackCat by October 1. Also due October 1, to Iowa's DOT's Local Systems Bureau, are [Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program](#) applications for Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

Finally, yearend reviews should be starting in the next month. Please remember your prompt, detailed responses to those reviews help Iowa DOT finalize statistics needed for the following fiscal year's funding formulas and are used to enter National Transit Database reporting for the small urban and regional transit systems.

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

*Kristin*



## TRANSIT TIDBITS

Did you miss the last training video, want to share it with your team, or even want to re-watch it. No need to worry, all previous Transit Tidbits have been uploaded to the Iowa DOT's Transit website. You can find them at:

<https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/training-resources>

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