

COMMISSION MINUTES

January 13, 2026

IOWA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda / Commission Orders

January 13, 2026

Lincoln Highway Conference Room, Iowa DOT Complex
Ames, IA

ITEM NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTED BY	PAGE
1:00 p.m.			
D-2026-43	*Approve Minutes of the December 9, 2025 Commission Meeting Commission Comments DOT Comments	Jill Smith	2
TD-2026-44	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) - Huxley	Deb Arp	4
TD-2026-45	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) - Sioux Center	Deb Arp	6
TD-2026-46	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) – Waterloo	Deb Arp	8
TD-2026-47	*Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program Funding Recommendations	Deb Arp	10
TD-2026-48	*Federal Recreational Trails Program Funding Recommendations	Deb Arp	12
TD-2026-49	*Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program Funding Recommendations	Deb Arp	14
TD-2026-50	*State Transit Assistance Special Projects	Kristin Haar	16
1:10 p.m.	Adjourn		

*Action Item

On Tuesday, January 13, the Commission and staff will meet informally at 9:30 a.m. in the Lincoln Highway Conference Room. Transportation-related matters will be discussed, but no action will be taken.

Commissioner Gaesser called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on January 13, 2026, in the Lincoln Highway Conference Room at the Iowa DOT in Ames, Iowa.

Commissioners present: Ray Gaesser, Mary Mulgrew Gronen, Bill Anderson, Sally Stutsman, Linda Juckette, and Brian Quirk. Rich Arnold was via phone.

D-2026-43

Stu Anderson, Transportation Development Division, for Jill Smith

Commissioner Gaesser asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025, Commission meeting.

Commissioner Juckette moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to approve.

There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

Commission Comments

None

DOT Comments Comments

None

TD-2026-44

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

The City of Huxley submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the paving of approximately 2,650 feet of 560th Avenue and the construction of 1,500 feet of new roadway and intersection improvements at Iowa 210 and 560th Avenue located on the southeast side of town. Because this project will provide access to 55 acres for warehousing and industrial purposes and to maximize RISE support for this project, staff evaluated the application as a RISE Local Development project. Under our RISE Local Development criteria, this project received a rating of 69 points and is anticipated to be completed by November 2026.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$4,178,879. The city of Huxley has requested a RISE grant of \$2,089,439 or up to 50 percent of RISE-eligible project costs.

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, staff recommends the Commission reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2025 round of applications and commit a RISE grant of \$2,089,439 from the city share of the RISE fund or up to 50 percent of the total RISE-eligible project costs, whichever is less.

Commissioner Mulgrew Gronen moved and Commissioner Stutsman seconded a motion to approve.

There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Transportation Development Division
 Division/Bureau/Office Local Systems Bureau Order No. TD-2026-45
 Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 13, 2026
 Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Sioux Center

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Sioux Center submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in construction of approximately 560 feet of 3rd Street NW located on the northwest side of town. This project is anticipated to be completed by October 2026.

Because this project will provide access to 12 acres for industrial purposes and to maximize RISE support for this project, staff evaluated the application as a RISE Local Development project.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2025 round of applications and award a RISE grant of \$276,470 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE-eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the city share of the RISE Fund.

COMMISSION ACTION:			Vote	Aye	Nay	Pass
			Anderson	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
			Arnold	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
			Gaesser	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Moved by	<u>Anderson</u>	Seconded by	<u>Stutsman</u>	Juckette	<u> x </u>	_____
				Mulgrew Gronen	<u> x </u>	_____
				Quirk	<u> x </u>	_____
				Stutsman	<u> x </u>	_____
_____	_____	_____				
Division Director	Legal	State Director				

TD-2026-45

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

The City of Sioux Center submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in construction of approximately 560 feet of 3rd Street NW located on the northwest side of town. Because this project will provide access to 12 acres for industrial purposes and to maximize RISE support for this project, staff evaluated the application as a RISE Local Development project. Under our RISE Local Development criteria, this project received a rating of 65 points and is anticipated to be completed by October 2026.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$552,940. The city of Sioux Center has requested a RISE grant of \$276,470 or up to 50 percent of RISE-eligible project costs.

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, staff recommends the Commission reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the September 2025 round of applications and commit a RISE grant of \$276,470 from the city share of the RISE fund or up to 50 percent of the total RISE-eligible project costs, whichever is less.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Stutsman seconded a motion to approve.

There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER**

Transportation Development Division

Division/Bureau/Office Local Systems Bureau Order No. TD-2026-46

Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 13, 2026

Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Waterloo

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The city of Waterloo was previously awarded a RISE Local Development grant to assist in the construction of approximately 2,600 feet of Dakota Drive, 470 feet of Wolfe Avenue, turn lanes on Dakota Drive, a left turn lane on Ansborough Avenue and a roundabout at the intersection of Ansborough Avenue with the U.S. 20 eastbound ramps located on the southwest side of town. A modification to the scope and grant award was requested to construct approximately 1,700 feet of Wolfe Lane and 610 feet of North Lane.

This project is necessary to provide improved access to South Waterloo Business Park, an Iowa Economic Development Authority certified site of more than 183 acres. The certification for this site expires October 7, 2027.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission, based on potential capital investment and future job creation, approve modification of the previously awarded certified site RISE grant to include \$1,162,513 of additional costs for a new total cost of \$7,492,176 and increase the estimated RISE grant by \$697,508 to a new total of \$4,495,306 from the city share of the RISE Fund or up to 60 percent of the total RISE-eligible project cost, whichever is less. Since this is a certified site project, the actual award amount is subject to change as the project plans are finalized. Any additional changes to the scope or approved funding will be submitted by the department to the Commission for consideration as a modification to the award.

		Vote		
COMMISSION ACTION:		Aye	Nay	Pass
	Anderson	x	_____	_____
	Arnold	x	_____	_____
	Gaesser	x	_____	_____
Moved by <u>Quirk</u>	Juckette	x	_____	_____
Seconded by <u>Juckette</u>	Mulgrew Gronen	x	_____	_____
	Quirk	x	_____	_____
	Stutsman	x	_____	_____
_____ Division Director	_____ Legal			_____ State Director

TD-2026-46

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

The city of Waterloo was awarded a RISE Certified Site Local Development grant in December 2024 to assist in construction of approximately 2,600 feet of Dakota Drive, 470 feet of Wolfe Avenue, turn lanes on Dakota Drive and a left turn lane on Ansborough Avenue located on the southwest side of town in support of the South Waterloo Business Park, an Iowa Economic Development Authority certified site of more than 183 acres. A modification to the scope and grant award was approved in May 2025 to include the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Ansborough Avenue and the U.S. 20 eastbound ramps. A second modification to the scope and grant award has been requested to include 610 feet of North Lane and extend Wolfe Lane to 1,700 feet.

It is recommended the Commission, based on potential capital investment and future job creation, approve a modification of the previously awarded certified site RISE grant to include \$1,162,513 of additional costs for a new total cost of \$7,492,176 and increase the estimated RISE grant by \$697,508 to a new total of \$4,495,306 from the city share of the RISE Fund or up to 60 percent of the total RISE-eligible project cost, whichever is less.

Since this is a certified site project, the actual award amount is subject to change as the project plans are finalized. Any additional changes to the scope or approved funding will be submitted by the department to the Commission for consideration as a modification to the award.

Commissioner Quirk moved and Commissioner Juckette seconded a motion to approve.

There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

TD-2026-47

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program was created in 1994 and is modeled after the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program established in 1991. \$4 million in CMAQ or Carbon Reduction program funding is set-aside annually for the ICAAP program. This is an application-based program that awards funds to projects with the highest potential for reducing transportation related congestion and air pollution. Project priorities include reducing vehicle miles of travel and single occupant vehicle travel. Priorities also include improving vehicle traffic flow or other projects that improve air quality or reduce traffic congestion. Projects are also evaluated based on their cost effectiveness.

In this round, we received 6 applications requesting over \$4.2 million in funding. Last month we shared with you our recommendation to fund 6 projects with \$4 million. We recommend you approve the Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program funding recommendations as listed on the Commission order.

Commissioner Stutsman moved and Commissioner Mulgrew Gronen seconded a motion to approve. There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER**

Division/Bureau/Office Transportation Development Division
Local Systems Bureau Order No. TD-2026-48
 Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 13, 2026
 Title Federal Recreational Trails Program Funding Recommendations

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Review of the current round of applications for funding from the Federal Recreational Trails Program has been completed. The following recommendations will be presented.

Off-Highway Vehicle Park Maintenance Equipment (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)	\$ 291,600
Pinicon Ridge Park Wapsi Bluff Trail Connector (Linn County Conservation Board)	\$ 325,000
Skunk River Bridge Repair (Polk County Conservation Board)	\$ 468,000
Snow Trail Maintenance Equipment (Iowa State Snowmobile Association)	\$ 264,000
Total	\$1,348,600

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the Federal Recreational Trails Program funding recommendations, as listed.

COMMISSION ACTION:			Vote	Aye	Nay	Pass
	Anderson		x			
	Arnold		x			
	Gaesser		x			
Moved by <u>Juckette</u>	Seconded by <u>Stutsman</u>		x			
	Juckette		x			
	Mulgrew Gronen		x			
	Quirk		x			
	Stutsman		x			
_____ Division Director	_____ Legal	_____ State Director				

TD-2026-48

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

The Federal Recreational Trails program was created in 1991. Applications are received from mostly government agencies to support the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. Projects eligible for the program include: Maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails and trail amenities, and acquisition of land for trails.

In this round, we received 11 applications requesting \$6 million in funding. Last month, we shared with you our recommendation to fund four projects with \$1,348,600. We recommend you approve the Federal Recreational Trails program recommendations as listed on the Commission Order.

Commissioner Juckette moved and Commissioner Stutsman seconded a motion to approve. There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER**

Division/Bureau/Office Transportation Development Division
Local Systems Bureau Order No. TD-2026-49
 Submitted by Debra Arp Phone No. 515-239-1681 Meeting Date January 13, 2026
 Title Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program Funding Recommendations

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

Review of the current round of applications for funding from the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program has been completed. The following funding recommendations will be presented.

Safe Routes to School Projects

Central City Pedestrian Bridge (Central City)	\$1,400,000
Iowa Safe Routes Partnership (Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments)	\$ 312,002

All Other Projects

Camanche Trail Extensions (Camanche)	\$ 500,000
Great American Rail Trail: Weston to Underwood (Pottawattamie County Conservation Board)	\$1,920,435
Summer Street – Dankwardt Park Connector Trail (Burlington)	\$ 750,000
UNI Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (University of Northern Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center)	\$ 447,956
Total	\$5,330,393

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program funding recommendations, as listed.

		Vote		
COMMISSION ACTION:		Aye	Nay	Pass
	Anderson	x	_____	_____
	Arnold	x	_____	_____
	Gaesser	x	_____	_____
Moved by <u>Anderson</u>	Seconded by <u>Mulgrew Gronen</u>	x	_____	_____
	Juckette	x	_____	_____
	Mulgrew Gronen	x	_____	_____
	Quirk	x	_____	_____
	Stutsman	x	_____	_____
_____ Division Director	_____ Legal		_____ State Director	

TD-2026-49

Debra Arp, Local Systems Bureau

The Transportation Alternatives Set-aside program is the current iteration of a program that has existed in some form since 1991 in support of projects that will have a statewide or multi-regional impact, expand the state's multi-modal transportation system, enhance tourism, and provide safe routes to school.

Applications are received from mostly government agencies.

In this round, we received 14 applications requesting over \$15.1 million in funding. Last month, we shared with you our recommendation to fund 6 projects with \$5,330,393.

We recommend you approve the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program recommendations as listed on the Commission Order.

Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Mulgrew Gronen seconded a motion to approve. There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Transportation Development Division
Modal Transportation Bureau Order No. TD-2026-50
Submitted by Kristin Haar Phone No. 515-233-7875 Meeting Date January 13, 2026
Title State Transit Assistance Special Projects

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The Modal Transportation Bureau requests approval for the Fiscal Year 2027 State Transit Assistance Special Projects.

FY 2027 Competitive Projects

System/Sponsor	Project	Amount recommended
Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA), Region 13	SWI-Ride (Hybrid demand-response service in Pottawattamie and Mills Counties)	\$50,000
Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART)	Making Moves with DART's New Network (Marketing Campaign)	\$75,000
Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA), Region 11	HIRTA Awareness Campaign (Marketing Campaign)	\$25,000

FY 2027 Iowa DOT-Sponsored Projects

System/Sponsor	Project	Amount recommended
Iowa DOT	General Transit Feed Specification Contractor	\$77,500
Iowa DOT	Iowarideshare.org Ridematching Software	\$42,000

PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Commission approve the State Transit Assistance Special Project funding recommendations as listed above.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by Quirk Seconded by Juckette

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Anderson	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Arnold	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Gaesser	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Juckette	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Mulgrew Gronen	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Quirk	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Stutsman	<u>x</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Division Director Legal State Director

TD-2026-50

Kristin Haar, Modal Transportation Bureau

The Iowa Department of Transportation sets aside \$600,000 of State Transit Assistance annually to fund training fellowships and special projects. Last month, we presented three competitive application projects and two DOT sponsored projects for a total recommended funding amount of \$269,500.

It is recommended the Commission approve the five State Transit Assistance Special Projects, listed on the Commission Order.

Commissioner Quirk moved and Commissioner Juckette seconded a motion to approve. There were no further questions or comments.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.