

A photograph taken from the driver's perspective inside a car, looking out onto a multi-lane highway. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the scene. The driver's hands are visible on the steering wheel. In the distance, other vehicles and highway infrastructure are visible under the bright sky.

IPTA Legislative Meeting

IOWA | DOT

March 10, 2026

Iowa DOT Public Transit Introductions

- Tammy Nicholson, Modal Transportation Bureau Director
- Kristin Haar, Public Transit Director
- Brent Paulsen, Transit Programs Manager
- Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Grants Manager
- Laura Lutz-Zimmerman, Transit Programs Administrator
- Matt Oetker, Transit Programs Administrator
- Jamie Wingert, Compliance and Training Specialist
- Amy Colwell, Administrative Support
- Emma Simmons, Transit Planner
- Jacob Black, Transit Intern

Accessible Web Documents

- If you are wanting to post any documents on the Iowa DOT webpage, they will need to be accessible starting April 24, 2026
- Please make sure your public hearing notices you send to post on the DOT's page are accessible
- The Iowa DOT has accessibility resources for outside agencies
 - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oC4nud_NqNnF4oCMFengm3MB03L0DvBS?usp=drive_link

2026 Passenger Transportation Summit

- May 19, 2026
- Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge, West Des Moines
- Registration at 9AM – 9:30AM
- Adjourn at 3:15PM
- Agenda Topics: IPTA Economic Impact Report, Coordinated Transportation Activity

Administrative Rules Update

- EO-10 Review
- Iowa Administrative Code Chapters 761- 910, 911, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924
- Public hearings were held on Microsoft Teams for each chapter, with no comments received
- Chapters edited for brevity and removal of restrictive terms
- One chapter, Chapter 921, *Advanced Allocations of State Transit Assistance Funding*, was rescinded with its contents added to Chapter 920, *State Transit Assistance*

Administrative Rules Update

- All chapters have now been taken to the state legislature's Administrative Rules Review Committee with no questions received
- As of March 10, 2026, all Chapters will have been taken to the Iowa Transportation Commission for adoption
- The rules have one final Administrative Rules Review Committee meeting before being official

Delinquent Reporting Policy

- The Updated Delinquent Reporting and Contract Non-performance Penalties Policy effective January 1, 2026
 - Transit Tidbits recording from December 4th is available on the website if you missed it. <https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/training-resources#transit-tidbits>
 - The Policy can be found in Chapter 6 of the Transit Manager's Handbook <https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/transit/transit-manager-handbook>
 - Biggest change from previous policy is the potential to lose held STA funding permanently if deadlines are not met.

Audit Deadline Corrected

- The Iowa DOT Public Transit Team was recently made aware our annual financial audit deadline was incorrect, as listed in the Transit Manager's Handbook. Deadline noted is June 30 of the next fiscal year (had one full year to get audit done) *is incorrect*.
- Federal requirements per [2 CFR 200.507\(c\)\(1\)](#) specifically require the following with respect to Federal Single Audits:
 - *“Submission deadline and public availability... Unless a different period is specified in the program-specific audit guide, the audit must be submitted within 30 calendar days after the auditee receives the auditor's report(s) or nine months after the end of the audit period (whichever is earlier).”*

Audit Deadline Corrected

- Per [Iowa Code 11.6](#):
 - “1. a. (1) Except for entities organized under chapter 28E having gross receipts of one hundred thousand dollars or less in a fiscal year, the financial condition and transactions of all government subdivisions shall be audited at least once each year...”
 - “6. An audit required by this section shall be completed within nine months following the end of the fiscal year that is subject to the audit...”
 - Since our contracts run on a state fiscal year basis, the deadline for financial audits is March 31. The Transit Manager’s Handbook will be updated to reflect this correction.
- With this new information coming so close to the deadline, if you know your agency will not meet the March 31 deadline for the Fiscal Year 2025 audit, please let Kristin Haar know you need the contact in order to request an extension.

Consolidated Transit Funding Applications and Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Applications

- Applications are open in BlackCat and due May 1st
 - Training materials are available via the most recent Transit Tidbits and the DOT Training Resources page
- Final FY27 State Transit Assistance (STA) funding forecast is now available
 - Access in BlackCat → Resources → Global Resources → Transit Funding Resources → FY27 Funding Projections/Allocations

Consolidated Transit Funding Applications

- FTA has not released FY27 apportionments
 - Draft Section 5310 and 5311 allocations remain unchanged and based on the latest operating statistics plus a 10% increase
 - Estimates are designed to stay within 30% of final amounts to avoid TIP amendments
- All projects submitted in the Consolidated Transit Funding Application must be included in the local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), match application funding amounts, and be generated through TPMS using the Iowa DOT standard format.

Ridership and Revenue Mile Comparison

Fiscal Year	Ridership	Percent Change	Revenue Miles	Percent Change
2025	20,304,708	5%	26,118,794	2%
2024	19,284,864	11%	25,569,986	2%
2023	17,341,472	15%	25,123,307	0%
2022	15,106,115	-	25,000,115	-

Ridership and Revenue Mile Comparison Four Year Change (2022-2025)

Fiscal Year	Ridership	Percent Change	Revenue Miles	Percent Change
2022-2025	5,198,593	34%	1,118,679	4%

Grant Spending Efficiency

- FTA is tracking progress on current and expired grants, Iowa DOT recently extended 20 expired grants for continued use (operations and capital)
- We may have less flexibility in the future, could lose funds if not in use
- Transit agencies need to be more diligent with planning, procuring and spending on projects
 - Example: vehicles should be ordered within 1 year to avoid needing a contract amendment, Iowa DOT has procurements for multiple vehicle types, so this should not be an issue
- Make sure to attend the March 17 Transit Tidbits for more information

Iowa DOT Bus Procurement

- DOT is still determining what types of vehicles to include in the statewide procurement – vans, light duty, medium duty, heavy duty – based on the results of the procurement survey last year
- DOT is setting up the workgroup to review specifications in March/April
- If you have specific vehicle needs, or want to be involved in the workgroup and did not indicate that on the survey, please reach out

ICB Application Due Date

- Beginning in calendar year 2027, the application date will be moved up to improve grant and contract approval timelines
- The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be issued in early July, and the application is due on September 1st
- Recommendations will be presented to DOT Transportation Commission in October and approval sought in November
- Due to available funding, the DOT is considering an additional NOFA for calendar year 2026. A decision will be made by April

Training Opportunities

- Transit Manager's Handbook Training:
 - Monday, June 1st, noon-5:00 p.m. & Tuesday, June 2nd, 8:30 am – 1 p.m.
 - Iowa Valley Conference Room, Garden Level 800 Lincoln Way
 - Email Jamie Wingert to register Jamie.wingert@iowadot.us
 - Fellowships are available - contact Amy Amy.Colwell@iowadot.us
- Transit Tidbits:
 - “The Life of a Grant” Tuesday, March 17, 9:00 am
 - If you would like to be added to the invite list, please contact Amy Colwell

2026 Compliance Reviews

Transit Agency	Date
R3 Rides	TBD
R6 PeopleRides	TBD
R7 Onboard	TBD
R8 RTA	TBD
R11 HIRTA	TBD
Clinton MTA	TBD
Muscatine Muscabus	TBD
Dubuque Jule	TBD
Waterloo MET	TBD

Questions?

Iowa DOT Public Transit

515-233-7870

<https://iowadot.gov/transit>