



IPTA Annual Meeting

IOWA | DOT

June 17, 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
- Nyonnua Quayeh, Transit Intern

Iowa DOT Public Transit Team Year in Review

- ✓ Exhibited at the Make Your Mark Conference, the Iowa Seizure Smart Conference, and the Statewide Resource Expo
- ✓ Continued Transit Tidbits sessions
- ✓ Iowa DOT on behalf of several transit agencies was awarded more than \$47 million in Bus and Bus Facilities/Low-No competitive programs
- ✓ On-going planning, NEPA requirements, and procurement work with FTA on 8 projects (7 facilities and bus stops in one community)

Iowa DOT Public Transit Team Year in Review - Continued

- ✓ On-going participation in planning meetings for a streetcar
- ✓ Two Transit Manager Handbook Trainings
- ✓ Passenger Transportation Summit, May 19th
- ✓ Presented Public Transit Long Range Plan to Iowa Transportation Commission on June 8th
- ✓ Conferences/training attended:
 - National RTAP Conference, Austin, TX
 - National RTAP Review Board Meetings
 - CTAA EXPO, Omaha, NE
 - Multiple NTI Procurement Series trainings
 - AASHTO Transit Management Conference, Detroit, MI

Iowa DOT Public Transit Team Year in Review - Continued

- ✓ Participated in Planning Reviews at RPAs
- ✓ Joined IPTA for the DC Fly-In, in March
- ✓ Finalized the updates to all public transit Iowa Administrative Code chapters
- ✓ Started visiting DOT District Offices to present 'Planes, Trains, and Busmobiles' roadshow, sharing coordination opportunities between the modes and districts
- ✓ Presented at several Transit Advisory Group meetings across the state
- ✓ Panelist on the Make/Change Symposium Transportation Panel

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%

New Public Transit Swag Design Available

- 12 years ago, Iowa DOT designed a 'Ride Transit' logo to celebrate Transit Week
- Iowa DOT staff printed our own shirts, but also used the logo on lapel pins to handout at events
- Logo has been refreshed
- Will make the files available to Iowa's transit systems to print any "swag" your systems may want
- Amy will be in touch with more information



Public Transit Long Range Plan

- The Public Transit Long Range Plan update is complete
- Access the updated plan on the [Iowa DOT's website](#)



Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC)

- 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 Sherli Childers of River Bend Transit as the new Regional representative, replacing Hugh Lively of RIDES who's term expired June 30
- Other PTAC Members include Erin Hockman, DART; Barb Neal, CyRide; Amy Fortenbacher, Muscabus; and Brian Pearson, SRTS
- 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

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional and Urban

- Iowa DOT staff have identified a need to document policies and procedures for the designation of urban and regional public transit systems
- Currently not much guidance in the *Transit Manager's Handbook and Policy Manual*

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional

The only defining boundary Iowa DOT has ever used to describe regional transit systems is that of county lines. From Iowa Code Chapter 324A.1:

4. “Public transit system” means an urban or regional transit system providing transit services accessible to the general public and receiving federal, state or local tax support.
5. “Regional transit system” means a public transit system serving one county or all or part of a multicounty area whose boundaries correspond to the same boundaries as those of the regional planning areas designated by the governor except as agreed upon by the county and the department. Each county, through the county board of supervisors, within the region shall be responsible for determining the service and funding within its own county. However, the administration and overhead support services for the regional transit system shall be consolidated into one existing or new agency to be mutually agreed upon by the participating members.

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional

- The regional transit system definition does not acknowledge the Urbanized Area (UZA) Boundaries set after each decennial census, delineating where FTA Section 5311 funding may be spent
- Section 5311 funding (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) may only be spent on services provided outside the UZA
- In regions surrounding growing UZAs, which are communities over 50,000 in population, each decennial census will mean the regional service area shrinks every 10 years
- To account for UZAs in the designation of regional transit system boundaries, the Iowa DOT proposes adding a policy statement to the *Handbook*

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional

- The following proposed policy will be inserted immediately following the definition of a regional transit system in the *Handbook*:
 - The Iowa DOT, in coming to agreement on the regional transit system boundary with the participating county or counties, will enforce the following:

The regional transit system boundary will be a county or all or part of a multicounty area whose boundaries correspond to the same boundaries as those of the regional planning areas, up to the urbanized area (UZA) boundary as defined and designated by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the most recent decennial census, as applicable.

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional

- There is an existing process for one county to leave a regional transit agency and join another in the *Handbook*
- Would like to add a process for designating a new regional transit system if the current system is no longer able to or no longer wishes to continue performing its duties...

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Regional

- Summarized proposed process addition to the *Handbook*:
The Iowa DOT must agree with this new designation and will require the following information to assist in the decision-making:
 1. Proposed entity to serve as new single administrative agency, including UEI
 2. Proposed members of new transit system board of directors
 3. Description of the factors leading to determination that current transit system not adequately performing its
 4. Description of the services the proposed system wishes to provide
 5. Acknowledgement that if Iowa DOT concurs, the new system will comply with all application rules and regulations
- Iowa DOT will issue a decision within 45 days; Iowa DOT Director will make the final decision

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Urban

- Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code both state that urban transit systems will be designated by the department (Iowa DOT) with only a few sentences of guidance
 - Iowa Administrative Code 761—920.3 states that “the system must serve a city or urbanized area with a population of 20,000 or more”
 - Iowa Code Chapter 324A.4.1 states that “...political subdivision, or public transit system... must coordinate and consolidate funding and resulting service to the maximum extent possible, with the urban or regional transit system.”
- However, Iowa DOT does not have a written process to follow for a community wishing to form an urban transit system

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Urban

- Summarized proposed process addition to the *Handbook*:
To request designation as an urban transit system eligible to receive STA, FTA, or other funding, as applicable, for providing open-to-the-public transit service, a city or cities will furnish the department with the following information:
 1. Population total for participating city or cities showing population of 20,000 or more in at least one of the cities
 2. Proposed entity to serve as new single administrative agency, including UEI
 3. Proposed members of new transit system board of directors; city council may serve as board of directors
 4. If contiguous to a current designated urban transit system, describe work done to coordinate and consolidate funding and services and reason for requesting designation as new transit system, with documentation
 5. Description of the services the proposed system wishes to provide
 6. Acknowledgement that if Iowa DOT concurs, the new system will comply with all application rules and regulations

Public Transit Service Area Boundaries and Designation – Urban

- Iowa DOT will issue a decision within 45 days; Iowa DOT Director will make the final decision
- Several factors will be considered when accepting or declining an application for a new urban transit system. It is the desire of the State for public transit services to be as coordinated and seamless as possible. This is in the best interest of the passengers navigating the system and reduces overhead in management of the transit system(s).

Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG)

- Received multiple qualified project applications, however...
- In their 2026 session, the Iowa Legislature did not award RIF funding to the Public Transit Infrastructure Grant program for FY 2027 projects

RIIF Funding for Federal Competitive Grant Local Match

- One-time RIIF funding of \$1.6 million awarded to help transit agencies with local match requirements from federal grants for buses and transit facilities
- Iowa DOT staff working on an equitable distribution method
- Local match for both facilities and vehicles will be provided

FTA Grants Update

- Formula Grants for 5310, 5311, Carbon Reduction Program and 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program transmitted and in review with FTA.
- Discretionary Iowa Low-No Project and Iowa Bus Replacement Project submitted after Commission approval in fall.

2026 Compliance Reviews

Transit Agency	Date
R3 Rides	9/24/26
R6 PeopleRides	7/10/26
R7 Onboard	9/3/26
R8 RTA	10/22/26
R11 HIRTA	TBD
Clinton MTA	8/10/26
Muscatine Muscabus	8/11/26
Dubuque Jule	10/21/26
Waterloo MET	9/4/26

FTA Title VI Programs

Small Urban and Regional Title VI Programs are due to Iowa DOT October 1st.

- Email with details will be sent in July
- Templates are available
- Guidance can be found in FTA Circular 4702.1B
 - [https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FTA Title VI FINAL.pdf](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FTA_Title_VI_FINAL.pdf)

Equal Opportunity Employment (EEO)

- EEO requires all recipients of FTA funds to provide equal employment to all persons. A person may not be excluded from participating in, denied a benefit of, or discriminated against under a project, program or activity receiving financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 5332(b) because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age.
- Effective May 20, 2026, FTA Circular 4704.1A, *Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients* has been withdrawn and there is no longer a requirement for recipients to submit EEO documentation to FTA.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/20/2026-10103/notice-of-withdrawal-of-guidance-circular-47041a>

LTAP – InTrans Training Contract

- Cybersecurity for Iowa Public Transit Agencies
 - Webinar- October 9, 2025
- Developing an Effective Preventive Maintenance Program
 - In-person February 10, 2026
- Training Assessment completed in February
- The Transit Training Advisory Committee is prioritizing the next training opportunity

Training Opportunities

- Transit Manager's Handbook Training:
 - Last one held June 1st and 2nd
 - Next one will be held late fall or early winter.
- Transit Tidbits:
 - "ADA: Do I Have to Do That?" July 21, 9:00 am
 - Contact Amy Colwell to be added to the mailing list!

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

- October 2025 Executive Order still in effect
- Iowa DOT must reevaluate each vendor for compliance under the new guidelines (not complete, yet)
- Cannot display Iowa DOT DBE Goal in documents or bids
- No reporting until further notice
- Still maintain your records, just in case

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan

- Iowa DOT must update the TAM Plan every 4 years
- Includes all rural and small urban systems
- Assess conditions of transit capital assets
 - Facility – Admin, maintenance, garage, HVAC, etc.
 - Vehicles – utilize condition reporting in place
 - Final Plan (Oct 1) – document condition ranking, offer justification to maintain State of Good Repair (SGR)

TAM Plan Update

- Facility Assessments – June through August
 - Rural and small urban
 - Large urban systems can join the facility portion only, but must maintain their own TAM plan
- ~1-2 hours at each site, depending on size
- App-based assessment tool
 - ArcGIS location tracking
 - Ranking system, 1-5 based on FTA standards
 - Ability to take photos to document condition

TPA Year End Review Reminders

- Annual vehicle reports (odometers) are due **July 15th**
Vehicle mileage verification reviews begin in July
 - Remember your odometers should be taken the night of **June 30th or the start of July 1st**
 - Review your odometers in the report for typos. Have another staff review if needed.
 - Remember if you have to adjust an odometer once the report is submitted, you will have to submit photographs of the odometer readings for verification
 - **Make sure you all your vehicles are in Blackcat before you start** the annual vehicle report. Use the “Revenue Vehicle Report” to verify. Purchase Transportation vehicles** should be in Blackcat; Enterprise vanpool vehicles do not need to be in Blackcat

TPA Year End Review Reminders

- Q4 transit statistics are due **August 15th**. Year end reviews will begin with regional and small urban systems in August. A few reminders:
 - STA amounts should be what you were paid (\$ and cents). Do include STA special projects as a separate line.
 - FTA amounts should be what you were paid (whole dollar, rounded down). DO NOT include capital grants in the FTA column. DO include fellowships or other FTA special operations grants
 - 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 status and contract closure. Funds from **expired contracts will be returned back to the program.**

TPA Year End Review Reminders

- Please review all of the statistics in the year end review. The statistics in the year end review will become the approved statistics. Approved statistics are used for formula funding projections.
- Approved statistics need to be finalized by December for consolidated transit funding applications.
- Generally, year end reviews are a chance for you to touch base with the TPA too. Bring up concerns or questions that you may have to your TPA.

TPA Shout Outs!

- City of Clinton temporary transit shuttle during road construction closure of Iowa 136 Mississippi River Bridge.
- Upcoming: the Jule will be operating a temporary shuttle during road construction closure of the US 20 Julian Dubuque Bridge.
- ECICOG expanded I-380 express service into North Liberty to accommodate the new U of I Medical Center and Kirkwood Community College
- DART's Reimagine plan for changing transit service in the Des Moines metro to align ridership and budget challenges starting June 14th.

Iowa DOT Bus Procurement

- DOT is working on a new procurement for vans, light duty and medium duty buses. A procurement for heavy duty buses will be kicked off after the execution of the van, light duty and medium duty procurement.
- DOT is currently revising and finalizing the specs using input received from the transit agency workgroup members and changes to vehicles types and manufacturers since the last procurement.
- DOT has received a lot of interest from several vendors including existing and new potential vendors.

Iowa DOT Bus Procurement Cont.

- DOT will be putting out the RFP using the Iowa electronic procurement system IMPACS. This will improve efficiency long term but has resulted in a little bit of delay for new system set up.
- Reminder the existing procurement expires on June 30, 2026. Make sure to reach out the vendors to order vehicles before that date if you want to purchase from the current procurement. Otherwise, you will need to do your own procurement, purchase from another state schedule or wait until the new procurement is in place.

State of Washington Vehicle Procurement

- In the past Iowa transit agencies have purchased heavy duty buses from the Washington Vehicle Procurement through the Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS).
- The Washington Procurement expired on March 31, 2026 and the new procurement is being administered differently.
- Transit agencies must now individually sign cooperative purchase agreements directly with the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services rather than work through an Iowa DAS cooperative agreement.
- These changes will require more due diligence by the transit agency to ensure the purchase meets FTA procurement rules. Iowa DOT will provide more guidance on what to submit for DOT concurrence and reimbursement.

Iowa DOT Electric Vehicle Procurement

- Reminder that the DOT has a current Electric Vehicle procurement where agencies can acquire ADA Battery Electric Transit Conversion Vans, both 25' and 30' Light-Duty ADA Accessible Battery Electric Buses, along with Level 2 and Level 3 EV Charging Stations
- These EV contracts runs through June 30, 2026.
- DOT is currently in the process of extending these contracts with the vendors for another year, out to June 30, 2027.

REMINDER: Iowa DOT Concurrence for Capital Projects

- If you are making a capital purchase using funds administered through a DOT contract, you must request concurrence from your TPA prior to putting out a bid or signing a purchase order from an existing procurement.
- For RFPs/RFQs send the document to the TPA for review prior to publication. The intent to award and justification will also need to be reviewed and approved prior to award.
- For bus purchases on the Iowa DOT procurement send the draft purchase order, bus schematic along with the vehicle being replaced and contract being used to your TPA requesting concurrence for the purchase.

Iowa DAS Website

- Transit agencies are able to purchase goods and services through some state of Iowa Master Agreements. A list of those agreements can be found on the DAS Procurement webpage
- This can be an alternative to completing your own procurement using state and local funded goods and services.
- It is not recommended for federally funded purchases due to additional requirements. You can reach out to your TPA for more information.

ICB Application Due Date

- Beginning for calendar year 2027 contracts, 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
- Intercity Bus operating contracts run January 1 through December 31

Agency Site Visits

- TPAs will be resuming agency site visits in FY27. Site visits will occur on different years than the DOT's compliance review.
- The site visits are intended to provide the transit agencies another opportunity for support from DOT transit staff.
- More to come, stay tuned.

Accessible Web Documents

- If you are wanting to post any documents on the Iowa DOT webpage, they will need to be accessible starting April 26, 2027
- Please make sure your public hearing notices you send to post on the DOT's page are accessible
- State of Iowa Web Resource:
<https://dxtraining.iowa.gov/accessibility-and-inclusivity>

Questions?

Iowa DOT Public Transit

515-233-7870

<https://iowadot.gov/transit>