

# **IOWA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

## **Workshop Overview**

March 26, 2020

Conference Call and Iowa DOT - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Director's Conference Room

(One hour and 30 minutes)

Begin at 2:00 pm

1. April Commission Tour/Meetings 10 min.  

Scott Marler, Director

  - **Purpose:** Discuss plans for the April tour, workshop, business meeting, and public input meeting given the social distancing requirements that will likely still be in place.
  - **Requested Action:** Provide comments/direction during the workshop.
  
2. Five-Year Program Discussion 80 min.  

Stu Anderson, Director  
Planning, Programming and  
Modal Division

  - **Purpose:** This item is the continuation of discussion of the 2021-2025 Iowa Transportation Improvement Program.
  - **Requested Action:** Provide comments/direction during the workshop.

### **Overview of slides planned for use at the workshop:**

- **Slide 2: Overview**
- **Slide 3: Commission Program Development Schedule (2021-2025)**
- **Slide 4: Decision Points**
  - This highlights the Commission decisions/guidance necessary to proceed to the next steps of Program development.
- **Slide 5: Federal Funding Recommendation – Highway Bridge Program (HBP)**
  - As explained more in email that transmitted the workshop material, the Iowa County Engineers Association has objected to the department's funding recommendation for the FFY 2020 federal HBP formula funding. Based on input from the ICEA, the department is modifying the recommendation so that the HBP funds are split equally between the Iowa DOT and local governments.
- **Slide 6: State Funding Recommendation**
  - The COVID-19 situation could have a significant negative impact on state Road Use Tax Fund revenue. This slide provides some background on the situation and concludes with the department's recommendation to continue to use the state funding recommendation

as presented March 10 but closely monitor revenues and be prepared to make adjustments as necessary.

- **Slide 7: 2021-2030 Highway Program Analysis**

- This slide is the same Program analysis slide presented at the March 10 workshop that reflects the updated funding forecast, the rescheduling of FY 2020 projects into FY 2021, and the updated cost estimates/schedules of projects included in last year's Program. The changes in green highlight the changes due to updated cost estimate and schedule changes.

- **Slide 8: 2021-2030 Highway Program Analysis**

- This slide reflects the same information as shown on the previous slide but the funding amounts in each category and year have been updated to reflect changes shown in green. While the FY 2021 balance of 23.2 million overprogrammed is not unreasonable, this balance will be more overprogrammed when the modified federal funding recommendation is incorporated. Therefore, one or more projects will have to move out of FY 2021. The FY 2022 balance of 78.0 million overprogrammed is rather high and further changes will be recommended to reduce that balance.

- **Slide 9: Interstate Stewardship**

- This slide includes summary bullets regarding the potential allocation of Interstate Stewardship funds in this Program. At the bottom of the slide is a summary of the rest area and major Interstate projects that can be added given the Commission designated Interstate Stewardship targets. A full project list will be provided at the April workshop.

A minor change is recommended in this category from what was presented at the March 10 workshop. The department is recommending swapping the Mills NB I-29 rest area building replacement in 2021 with the Iowa EB I-80 rest area in 2022. This is due to the Iowa County rest area being further along in development. This change has no impact on the funding allocation.

- **Slide 10: Other Stewardship Categories**

- This slide includes summary bullets for the other stewardship categories (Non-Interstate Pavement Modernization, Non-Interstate Bridge Modernization, and Safety). Full project lists will be provided at the April workshop.

- **Slide 11: Capacity/System Enhancement Categories**

- This slide includes summary bullets for the Non-Interstate and Major Interstate Capacity/System Enhancement Categories. The bullets describe the potential changes as included in the Program analysis slide shown on slides 7 and 8. Please note that further changes will be recommended later in the presentation.

- **Slide 12: Project Reschedule Scenario**

- In order to address the overprogrammed level in FY 2021 and FY 2022, a scenario is presented to reschedule some projects.

- **Slides 13 to 15: Options of Projects to add to the Highway Program**

- This is the list of potential projects included in the March 10 workshop presentation. Slide 13 lists potential Major Interstate Capacity/System

Enhancement projects. The two footnoted projects on this slide are recommended to be added to this Program and they are already included in the Program Analysis presented March 10.

Projects shown with yellow highlights on slides 14 and 15 are projects able to be funded in this Program given current Program balances. On slide 14 are the stewardship type of Non-Interstate Capacity/System Enhancement projects. Given the tight balances in the Program, the projects able to be added are small/low cost projects. However, the department is able to recommend adding the initial phase of the Iowa 2 resiliency project to FY 2021. This project was just approved by the Federal Highway Administration as being eligible for federal Emergency Relief funding; therefore, out of an approximate \$10 million total project cost, only \$2 million needs to be added to the Program to cover the match requirement.

The capacity type of Non-Interstate Capacity/System Enhancement projects are listed at the top of slide 15. There are two Super-2 projects that are highlighted in yellow indicating they are able to be funded given current program balances.

- **Slides 16 and 17: Non-Interstate Capacity/System Enhancement Projects**
  - A summary slide is included for the two significant projects that can be added to the Program. Slide 16 is for the Iowa 2 resiliency project and slide 17 is for the US 30 Super-2 project.
- **Slide 18: 2021-2030 Highway Program Analysis (adjusted federal funding forecast, added highlighted projects, additional project schedule changes)**
  - This Program analysis slide reflects the modified federal funding recommendation which lowers the Iowa DOT's share of federal funding in FY 2021 by \$8.2 million. This slide also reflects the project reschedule scenario necessary to move projects out of FY 2021 and FY 2022 to reduce the overprogrammed amount in those two years. Finally, this slide reflects the addition of the yellow highlighted projects shown on slides 14 and 15.

You will note years FY 2022 and FY 2023 are overprogrammed by a significant amount. We had previously discussed the option of having larger balances in the outer years of the Program but given the very unusual year with COVID-19 impacts, the department recommends consideration of having larger balances in FY 2022 and FY 2023. The primary reason is the possibility of significant federal investment in transportation to reinvigorate the economy as we come out of the COVID-19 crisis. This would be similar to what happened in 2009 with the Recovery Act. Having higher balances towards the front of the Program will assure the department has plenty of shelf-ready projects should additional federal funding become available.

- **Slide 19: Decision Points**
  - This is the same as slide 4 and is repeated at the end of the presentation to assure necessary decisions/guidance has been provided to proceed to the next steps of Program development.
- **Slide 20: FY 2020-2024 Highway Program Objectives**
  - This slide summarizes the Commission approved objectives of the 2020-2024 Highway Program.
- **Slide 21: Potential FY 2021-2025 Highway Program Objectives**
  - This slide summarizes the potential objectives of the 2021-2025 Highway Program. The listed potential objectives are identical to those presented at the March 20 meeting and are identical to the 2020-2024 Highway Program Objectives except for the deletion of the reference to investing in bypasses (change shown in green). Discussion is necessary on these objectives as they will be an action item at the April business meeting.
- **Slide 22: Next Steps**
  - This slide lists the next steps of the Program development anticipated to occur at the April workshop.