

HF 875 Infrastructure Appropriations

House File 875 makes appropriations to various state departments from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), the Environment First Fund, the Restricted Capital Fund, the Vertical Infrastructure Fund, and the General Fund and includes statutory changes. Several sections affecting the DOT are discussed below:

Section 3

Appropriates funds from the RIIF to various state agencies including:

Subsection 4 appropriates \$60,000 to the Department of Economic Development for an environmental assessment and preliminary impact study of establishing regional ferryboat service between Iowa and Illinois. The appropriation is contingent on receiving federal matching funds and on financial participation by Illinois.

Subsection 10 appropriates \$80,000 to the Department of Natural Resources for costs associated with Iowa's membership in the Mid-America Port Commission.

Subsection 11 appropriates \$550,000 to the Department of Public Safety to replace and upgrade the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Subsection 13 appropriates moneys to the DOT for aviation infrastructure and programs, rail assistance, and state recreational trails, including:

- \$564,792 for various aviation operations, including runway markings, windsocks, Aviation Weather Observation Systems, and the Airport Improvement Program;
- \$750,000 for vertical infrastructure improvements at Iowa's general aviation airports;
- \$1,000,000 for state recreational trails; and
- \$35,959 for rail assistance and economic development project funding.

The subsection also requires the DOT to “give preference to projects that demonstrate a collaborative effort between airports” in awarding vertical infrastructure improvement funds to general aviation airports.

- Section 11 Amends Code section 328.1, subsection 9, to expand the definition of airport to include land within a city with a population greater than 175,000 which is acquired to replace or mitigate land used in an airport runway project at an existing airport when federal law, grant, or action requires such replacement or mitigation.
- Section 13 Repeals HF 466, section 3, General Fund appropriation regarding aviation and rail assistance programs. (*Note: HF 875, section 3, subsection 13, appropriates funding from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.*)
- Section 19 Subsection 1 appropriates moneys from the Restricted Capital Funds account of the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to the DOT for vertical infrastructure improvements at Iowa's commercial service airports. Allocates the funding for specific purposes and requires airports to apply for funding of specific projects to the DOT for approval by the Transportation Commission.
- Sections 31-38 Direct certain state rail loan repayments to the state's Railroad Revolving Loan Fund, expands eligible uses of the fund, and transfers control of the fund to the Iowa Railway Finance Authority.
- Section 41 Directs the DOT to designate portions of the Commercial and Industrial Network of Highways as Access Iowa Highways and expedite and accelerate the development of Access Iowa Highways. Directs the DOT to consider the direct and priority linkages between economic centers within the state with populations of 20,000 or more and the enhancement of intrastate mobility and Iowa regional accessibility and national accessibility. The section is repealed effective July 1, 2015.