

## **Reports or Studies Required by the 83rd General Assembly, 2009 Session, That Affect or are of Interest to the Department of Transportation**

**The following require the DOT to issue a report or conduct a study:**

**HF 820** Section 61 appropriates moneys from the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Fund. Section 61, paragraph 9, appropriates \$5.55 million to the DOT for government stabilization and requires that 50 percent be deposited into the Street Construction Fund of the cities and 50 percent be deposited into the Secondary Road Fund of the counties to be used for construction, repair and maintenance of city roads or secondary roads. The moneys allocated to these funds must be expended within two years. The DOT, in cooperation with the cities and counties, is required to provide a progress report to the Legislative Services Agency by January 15 of each year until the projects are completed. This section takes effect upon enactment, May 26, 2009.

**HF 822** Section 1, subsection 12, paragraph f, appropriates \$14.75 million to the DOT to assist local governments to rebuild and repair local roads. Fifty percent of the amount appropriated must be deposited into the Street Construction Fund of the cities and 50 percent must be appropriated into the Secondary Road Fund of the counties. The moneys must be expended within two years. The DOT shall, in cooperation with the cities and counties, provide a report to the Legislative Services Agency by January 15 each year until the projects are completed.

Section 2, subsection 6, appropriates \$2 million to the DOT from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund for the Railroad Revolving Loan and Grant Fund and \$24.7 million to assist local governments to rebuild and repair local roads (50 percent of the amount appropriated must be deposited into the Street Construction Fund of the cities and 50 percent must be appropriated into the Secondary Road Fund of the counties) for FY 2011. The appropriations notwithstanding the definition of vertical infrastructure. The moneys must be expended within two years. The DOT shall, in cooperation with the cities and counties, provide a report to the Legislative Services Agency by January 15 each year until the projects are completed.

Section 29 requires any state agency that is appropriated moneys from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund to annually, on or before December 31 of each year, report the status of all projects completed or in progress. The report must include a project description, progress of work completed, total estimated cost of the project, a list of all revenue sources being used to fund the project, the amount of funds expended, the amount of funds obligated, and the date the project was completed or an estimated completion date of the project.

**SF 376** Section 34 creates a Bridge Safety Fund under the authority of the Transportation Commission. Moneys in the fund shall be used as appropriated by the General Assembly for infrastructure projects relating to functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridges on the primary road system. Annually, on or before January 15 of each year, the DOT shall report to the Legislative Services Agency and the Department of Management the status of all projects completed or in progress. This bill takes effect upon enactment, May 14, 2009.

**The following require the DOT to provide information or assist in the report or study:**

**HF 64** Section 10 creates a Rebuild Iowa Office and establishes a coordinating council to facilitate communication between state agencies and the Rebuild Iowa Office. The DOT is named a member of the council. Section 10 is repealed on June 30, 2011. Section 10 takes effect upon enactment, February 2, 2009, and applies retroactively to June 27, 2008, and applies on and after that date.

**HF 722** Section 49 establishes an Upland Game Bird Study Advisory Committee and includes the DOT as a member of the advisory committee. The advisory committee must review, analyze, and make recommendations on issues relating to the state's upland game bird population. The advisory committee must complete its deliberations in December 2009 and submit a final report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 10, 2010. Section 49 takes effect upon enactment, May 22, 2009.

**HF 756** Section 2 adds a new section establishing the Mississippi River Partnership Council. The council's purpose is to be a forum for city, county, state, agriculture, business, conservation, and environmental representatives and other stakeholders to discuss matters relevant to the health, management, and use of the Mississippi River. The DOT is named a member of the council.

Section 12 adds a new paragraph requiring the Water Resources Coordinating Council to develop recommendations for policies and funding promoting a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on Iowa's residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality. Policy and funding recommendations must be sent to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than November 15, 2009. **Note:** The DOT is a member of the Water Resources Coordinating Council.

**HF 820** Section 68 creates a Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Fund and requires recipients of an appropriation made from the Fund to account for the appropriation in a manner agreed to by the Department of Management and Legislative Services Agency. Also requires the Governor to create an Iowa Accountability and Transparency Board to monitor the state's use of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding in order to prevent

fraud, waste, and abuse and to make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly to ensure best practices are implemented.

**HF 826** Section 3 amends 2008 Iowa Acts, chapter 1109, section 11, subsections 4 and 5, by requiring the Comprehensive Recycling Planning Task Force to submit a written report containing its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2010. The task force must complete its duties no later than January 1, 2010. The deadline was January 1, 2009.

**SF 478** Section 26 relates to the salary model administrator and requires the DOT to provide salary data to the Department of Management and the Legislative Services Agency.

**The following are of interest to the DOT:**

**SF 224** Relates to the licensing and regulation of plumbers, mechanical professionals and contractors. Section 33 requires the Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board, in conjunction with the Electrical Examining Board and city and county building officials to conduct a study to determine the most appropriate and feasible manner to implement a statewide inspection program for work performed by the respective licensees of both boards. The boards shall submit a recommendation by January 1, 2011, to the General Assembly for the implementation of a statewide inspection program. Sections 23-29 are applicable only on and after July 1, 2009, and any actions taken under these sections prior to July 1, 2009, shall be void.

**SF 372** Requests the Legislative Council establish an interim study committee to evaluate the need for statewide broadband access, the extent to which such access exists, and the necessity for and content of a statewide broadband policy. In conducting the report, the committee shall review exclusively the provisions of the federal communications code and other federal laws affecting the implementation of broadband. If the committee issues a report, the report is due January 15, 2010.

**SF 478** Section 27 requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to consult with the Department of Management and discuss and collaborate with executive branch agencies to implement and maintain a policy for increasing the aggregate ratio of the number of employees per supervisor in executive branch agencies to be 14 employees for 1 supervisor. Requires DAS to present an interim report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before April 1, 2010, and a final report on or before April 1, 2011, detailing the effects of the policy on the composition of the workforce, cost savings, government efficiency, and outcomes. Also requires DAS to evaluate the state's systems for job classification of executive branch employees in order to ensure the existence of technical skill-based career paths for such employees which do not depend upon an employee gaining

supervisory responsibility for advancement, and which provide incentives for such employees to broaden their knowledge and skill base. The evaluation includes but is not limited to options for eliminating obsolete, duplicative, or unnecessary job classifications. Requires DAS to present interim reports to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2010, and January 14, 2011, concerning the department's progress in completing the evaluation and associated outcomes.