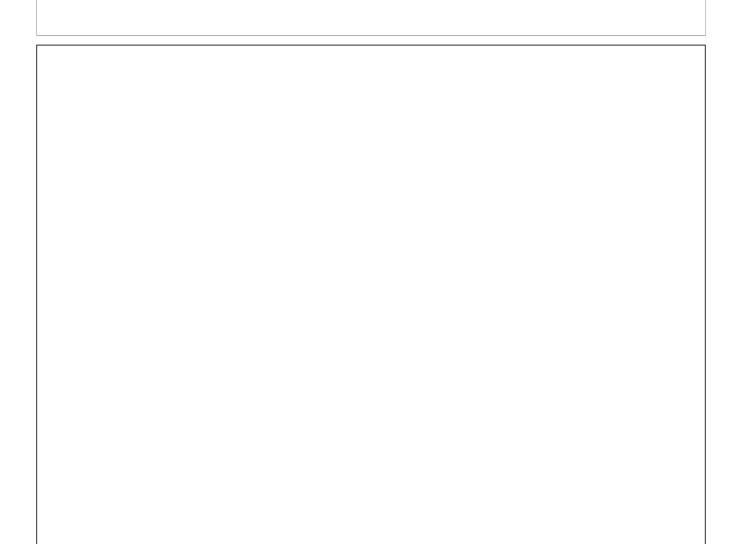


## **Questions and Answers**

MPO/RPA Quarterly March 24, 2021





I received all the calendar invitations for the four quarterly meetings in 2021. I see they all have Microsoft Teams information, but I just wanted to confirm that all four meetings are slated to be virtual this year. Is that correct?



### A:

3

Currently, meeting via Teams provides the best opportunity for full participation and right now, we are hopeful that the June quarterly meeting will be our last electronic meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is also our hope that we will have updated information on social distancing, health guidelines, and how guests will be expected to interact within our facilities in the near future, allowing us to be back meeting in person at the September quarterly meeting.



4

Who is the correct contract for the Iowa Rideshare programs now?



# A:

5

Brent Paulsen is the new Iowa Rideshare contact.

In fact, the Public Transit Bureau has hired two new employees since the last quarterly meeting:

- **Travis Estep:** Travis will be the Transit Grant Manager/Drug and Alcohol Specialist/Civil Rights Specialist for the Public Transit Bureau (this position was previously held by Sree Mitra before she became Transit Program Manager).
- **Becky Law:** Becky will be a Transit Program Administrator working alongside Brent Paulsen. Becky replaces Jeremy Johnson-Miller who recently left the DOT for another position.



I have reviewed the materials available on the DOT website and it appears as though nothing has changed with respect to the Swap (how it works, rules/regulations etc). Are you aware of any changes? Or is it just status quo on the DOT end of things?



#### A:

7

Nothing has changed for the regular swap program. The Transportation Commission approved some swap policy changes earlier this month but those had no impact on the regular swap program. The approved changes were to accommodate the allocation of COVID Relief funding to cities and counties in a timely manner.



I'm updating some of our online maps, and while the FHWA has not released the bridge data for 2020, can I request a GIS shapefile of the bridge data that was sent to FHWA on December 31, 2020?



### A:

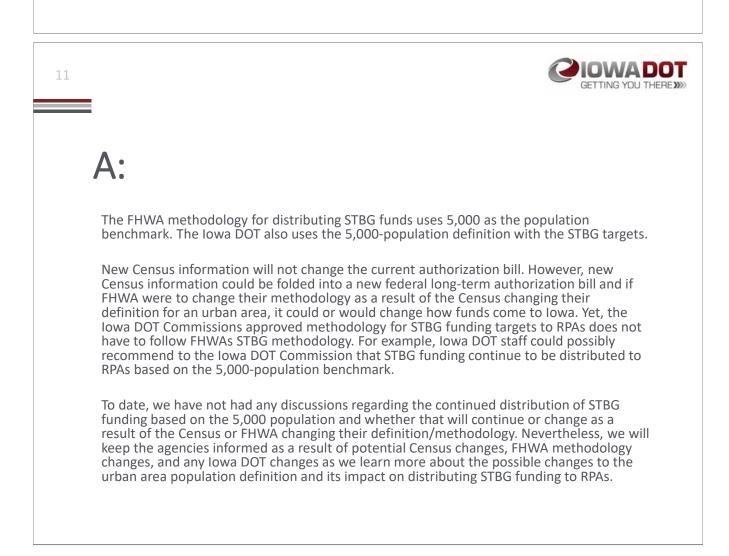
9

The Iowa DOT's Open Data Portal has the latest bridge information in a GIS shapefile for anyone wanting to access or download it. It is updated daily as inspections occur. You can access it and download it <u>here</u>.

As far as the information that was sent to FHWA, <u>Scott</u> <u>Neubauer</u> in the Bridges & Structures Bureau may be able to help provide anyone with that particular GIS shapefile. Please contact Scott with questions related to their FHWA submittal.



(In response to a notice requesting comment on changing the Census definition for urban area) Doesn't the Iowa DOT use a different definition for an urban area, 5,000+? And will the Iowa DOT continue to use that definition?





A question came up during an internal meeting regarding offering translation services, in case we are asked. We are aware of a service the IA DOT offers, but we cannot find the specifics on it. Can you provide some information on the process, phone numbers we may need to call/include on meeting announcements, and what we need to do in case we are requested for translation services?

