

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025**

**MINUTES**

Durant called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to order at 10:05 AM.

Meeting Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Role</b>
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	BPAC Member
Matthew Schmitz	City Manager	City of Independence	BPAC Member
Andrew Hockenson	Director	Bremer County Conservation Board	BPAC Member
Ben Bonar	Executive Director	Buchanan County Conservation Board	BPAC Member
Brian Keierleber	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member
Alex Davis	Assistant Engineer	Buchanan County	Attendee
Mark Crawford	Engineer	Crawford Engineering – Independence	Attendee
Kyle Durant	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	RTA Staff (Secretary)
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	RTA Staff

*\*Attended Online*

The first item on the agenda was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Schares, seconded by Schmitz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the May 28, 2022 meeting. It was moved by Bonar, seconded by Schares to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was a work session to develop the draft Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) Program for the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Updates for projects currently programmed were provided. Durant noted that staff will contact jurisdictions with projects currently programmed in FY 2025 for updates. Keierleber reported that bids last year for the Taylors Ford Trail Bridge Rehab project came in at \$1.9 million, far exceeding the engineering estimate. The requirement for hot riveting in the design of the historic bridge likely drove the high costs. As a result, the bids were rejected. The county explored various options and is now looking to adjust the project scope to prioritize the substructure. Without timely intervention, there is concern that the bridge could collapse. The revised cost estimate is approximately \$450,000, and the county is requesting to move the project back to FY 2026. However, a funding shortfall remains.

Next were presentations by new project sponsors. The following project was submitted for consideration:

**Enterprise Drive Trail Phase II – City of Independence**  
FY 2027; total cost: \$258,501; TASA request: \$206,801

Schmitz explained that the project would be a continuation of the Enterprise Drive Trail that this group funded. The new trail would complete the trail gap between IA 150 and Jackson Ave, creating a substantial trail loop within the southern portion of the community. The trail extension serves as a vital link to shopping and the commercial district. The next phase aims to extend the trail north along Jackson Ave to Lovers Lane Blvd, connecting to the existing trail on 6th Ave SW. The City may prioritize extending the trail to Spruce Dr first, allowing for future development along the corridor before proceeding with further extensions.

Next was the programming of TASA/TAP projects. With only one application received, a project ranking process was deemed unnecessary. With the addition of the new project to the program, the draft FY 2026-2029 TASA balance for FY 2029 was \$159,616. The group discussed whether to allocate the remaining funds to the underfunded Taylors Ford Trail Bridge Rehab project or extend the Enterprise Drive Trail Phase II project north to Spruce Drive. The consensus was to allocate the \$159,616 to the Taylors Ford Bridge project, bringing it closer to 80 percent funding. Key considerations included the project's urgency, its current program status, and its historic significance.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Schmitz, seconded by Bonar to approve the recommended TASA/TAP projects for submittal to the Policy Board as follows:

<b>FY</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>RTA TASA Programmed</b>
2025	Fairbank	Walk Safe Fairbank*	\$102,431	\$81,947
2025	Butler County Conservation	Rolling Prairie Trail Expansion*	\$634,617	\$484,500
2025	Denver	Brandt Park Recreational Trail*	\$431,000	\$344,800
2025	Grundy County Conservation	Pioneer Trail Reinbeck Gap*	\$1,126,000	\$320,000
2026	Buchanan County	Taylors Ford Trail Bridge Rehab	\$450,000	\$343,616
2027	Independence	Enterprise Drive Trail Phase II	\$258,501	\$206,801

*\*Project carries over to FY 2026 if not authorized in FY 2025*

Motion carried unanimously.

Next was general discussion. Durant announced his resignation, with his last day set for Wednesday, March 26. He has accepted the Statewide Planning Coordinator position at the Iowa DOT. He expressed his appreciation to the group and his colleagues for their support, reflecting on the valuable experiences and successes shared over the years.

There being no further business, Durant declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Durant  
Secretary