

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, J 19, 2025

Barnett (Chair) called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to order at 1:03 PM.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Greg Barnett	Supervisor	Butler County	Policy Board Member (-Chair)
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	Clarksville	Attendee
Scott Cerwinski	Supervisor	Chickasaw County	Policy Board Member (Online)
Ritch Kurtenbach	Supervisor	Black Hawk County	Policy Board Member
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	City of Clarksville	Policy Board Member
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	Policy Board Member
Joel Wikner	Mayor pro tem	City of Denver	Policy Board Member (Online)
Roman Lensing	County Engineer	Chickasaw County	TTC Member
Mark Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Matthew Schmitz*	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member
Krista Billhorn*	District Planner Supervisor	IDOT	Attendee (Online)
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	RTA Staff

Barnett (Chair) asked if there were any proposed amendments to the agenda. In response, Fratzke requested the removal of the third item: "Hold a public hearing to consider approval of the draft FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)". Fratzke explained that a public hearing is not required for the draft TIP, but only for the final TIP process. A motion to amend the agenda was moved by Schildroth, seconded by Wieland, to amend the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item was approval of the agenda as amended. Motion was made by Schildroth, seconded by Wieland, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the May 2025 meeting. It was moved by Kurtenbach, seconded by Geertz, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was Discussion Items:

1. Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan
 - a. Review Chapter 8: Request County Roads and Bridges closed or damaged due to flooding or other environmental events.

Fratzke mentioned that the environmental review was progressing with a couple of feedback from the DOT staff, and we were looking at including assets in the region that are impacted by environmental factors. Oriakhi added that it would be helpful if county engineers could provide a list of roads and bridges within their jurisdiction that have been impacted by environmental conditions, such as flooding, or have the potential to be impacted in the foreseeable future. Oriakhi emphasized the importance of including bridges that are currently posted or closed due to environmental factors should be included as well. This information would provide better insight into the regions' critical assets impacted by environmental conditions and help inform efforts to enhance regional resilience.

- b. Review Chapter 9: Identify any long-range road or bridge project not included in the FY 2-26-2029 program that could be included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Fratzke mentioned that the Financial Review section of the 2050 LRTP had received feedback from the District planner and DOT staff, and feedback is being implemented. Oriakhi added that providing information on projects not captured or constrained within the FY 2026-2029 period to be included in the 2050 LRTP is important, as it creates an overview of the long-term needs of the region.

2. Project updates (TASA/TAP and STBG).

Riherd reported that bridge deck overlay rehabilitation has been completed on three structures north of Aplington, with paving work wrapping up. An overlay project is also underway near New Hampton, along with a minor signal improvement in Butler County. A surface transportation project near Dumont is set to begin in mid-July and will include ADA ramp installations, with asphalt work scheduled for the third or fourth week of August. Several additional bridge and paving projects have also been completed. Cathy provided updates for Black Hawk County, noting that the Dubuque Road federal-aid project is beginning this week and will remain closed for the summer. She also shared that the county has been selected, along with Buchanan County, for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) for a project scheduled in 2027.

Gerald from Clarksville mentioned the city has started budgeting annually for street repairs. A \$620,000 project is proposed for Church Street next year, which includes maintenance of a galvanized waterline. Landon Moore shared that about 9 miles of work along C33 is planned for July and August. Their CHBP bridge project is nearly closed out; however, a recent hailstorm damaged their office and some of the project files.

Geertz noted that surveying is underway for two streets, which will undergo full infrastructure reconstruction either this fall or spring. Keith reported that D22 has reopened in the Buchanan County portion, and work continues on W35 (Quasqueton Diagonal) heading toward Independence. A reconstruction and paving project is scheduled for mid-July. During route inspections for RAGBRAI, several patching needs were identified and addressed.

Billhorn (District Planner) encouraged agencies to consider applying for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. Buchanan and Grundy Counties were previously involved, though Grundy is now backing out. Billhorn emphasized the importance of submitting letters of support for those interested in pursuing federal funding.

3. New Hire: Transportation Planner II

Fratzke announced that there has been a recent new hire for the position of a Transportation Planner II. The new hire is a recent graduate from the University of Iowa and holds a masters in Urban Planning with a focus on Transportation planning, and they bring experience from working in various projects with the cities of Waterloo, Burlington, and other Iowa communities. Fratzke mentioned that the new hire will begin in July.

4. General discussion.

Billhorn (District Planner) shared that the section of Highway 63 from the northern part of the region to the Minnesota border has not yet undergone a study. A corridor study similar to the one completed for IA-150 would be necessary for this stretch, particularly to assess pavement conditions. Cathy raised questions regarding the intersection of Highway 63 and the Wapsipinicon River. Billhorn (District Planner) referenced a study being conducted by Greenhill Consultants related to that area.

There being no further business, it was moved by Geertz, seconded by Riherd, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Oghogho Oriakhi
Secretary