

## IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025**

Hilderbrandt (Vice Chair) called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to order at 1:02 p.m.

### Meeting Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Role</b>
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Dawey Hildebrandt	Supervisor	Bremer County	Policy Board Member (Vice Chair)
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	Clarksville	Attendee
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	Policy Board Member
Joel Wikner	Mayor pro tem	City of Denver	Policy Board Member (Online)
Cathy Nicolas*	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
James Broner	City Administrator	City of Waverly	Policy Board Member
Mark Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Jeff Scalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC 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
Sanzida Rahman Setu	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	RTA Staff

*Online Attendees \**

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

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the June 19, 2025, meeting. It was moved by Wieland, seconded by Schildroth, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next was the public hearing and consideration for approval of the Final FY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Chair Hilderbrandt opened the public hearing at 1:03 p.m., following a motion by Broner, seconded by Wikner. The motion carried unanimously. Fratzke noted that no public comments had been received thus far and reminded everyone that the notice period would remain open for the next 30 days. He encouraged both Policy Board and Technical Committee members to reach out if there were any changes or amendments needed, as there is still room to amend the final TIP. Fratzke also encouraged county engineers to review the document, which could be tracked on the MPO website and compared with what's shown in TPMS to ensure everything aligns. Billhorn, the District Planner Supervisor, took a moment to commend the team for a job well done. During the discussion, Scalberg noted that one of Grundy County's programs had been moved back due to ongoing work on IA 14. Chair Hilderbrandt then asked if there were any additional comments or discussion on the Final TIP. Hearing none, the motion was made by Scalberg, seconded by Moore. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing officially closed at 1:08 p.m. Following that, Chair Hilderbrandt called for a motion to approve the Final FY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Wikner moved to approve, seconded by Wieland. The motion carried unanimously.

Next was Discussion Items:

1. Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan; (Review Chapters 4 & 5)

Oriakhi provided an overview of draft Chapters 4 and 5 of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He noted that Chapter 4 offers a comprehensive look at passenger transportation infrastructure in the region, covering bus transit (MET and OnBoard Public Transit), air travel via the Waterloo Regional Airport, and the rail system. The chapter also includes an in-depth analysis of ridership trends and future projections for MET Transit and OnBoard services. Chapter 5 focuses on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, highlighting sidewalks, bike lanes /sharrows, trail networks, and pavement conditions across the region. Oriakhi emphasized the use of infographics, charts, and maps to convey the data. He also commended Wieland and Moore for promptly providing information on infrastructure within their jurisdictions that may be impacted by flooding. Lastly, Oriakhi shared feedback from his conversation with Travis, the Metropolitan and Regional Planning Coordinator at the DOT, noting that a key recommendation was to incorporate long-term projects those with regional connectivity or county-level significance, into the financial analysis of the 2050 LRTP. This would allow those projects to be referenced in the future when applying for competitive grants.

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

Fratzke mentioned that finalizing all aspects of the TIP was an involved process, and emphasized the importance of taking a closer look for any potential amendments. Landon noted that there is no federal aid involved with the paving of County Road C33. Keith provided an update on D22, stating they are currently working on W35 near Quasqueton diagonal, including some curve leveling. Paving is expected to begin this month, and reclaimed pavement work is underway in Stanley. Cathy shared that work is progressing on Dubuque Road at Highway 20, and they are nearing the end of the submittal process for highway bridge plans. She added that letters of support are being gathered, and the grant process now requires a survey to be submitted online. Preparations are also underway for RAGBRAI. Billhorn provided an update on the U.S. 63 feasibility studies, noting that the scope and contract for consultants have been drafted, and the feasibility study is expected to be completed by next July. She also shared that a notice has been issued for the closure and demolition of the Lansing Bridge this fall. Unfortunately, the IA 57 BUILD grant application for Greenhill Road in Cedar Falls was not successful. Schmitz for the City of Independence noted that the BUILD grant outcome, stating they were not selected and are now regrouping with the council to determine whether they will reapply in the fall.

3. New Hire: Transportation Planner II

Sanzida Rahman Setu, the newly hired Transportation Planner II, introduced herself and noted that she had recently graduated from the Urban and Regional Planning program at Iowa State University. Setu expressed enthusiasm about joining the team and working with members of the committee.

4. General discussion.

5.

Fratzke mentioned that the August meeting may likely be canceled, as the Iowa Concrete Association is hosting an event that is open to the RTA. Given the light agenda, there are plans to have the group attend the event instead. More details will be shared soon, and the committee will be kept informed.

There being no further business, it was moved by Scalberg, seconded by Scildroth, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Oghogho Oriakhi  
Secretary