

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Hilderbrandt (Vice Chair) called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to order at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Ritch Kurtenbach	Supervisor	Black Hawk County	Policy Board Member
Dewey Hildebrandt	Supervisor	Bremer County	Policy Board Member (Vice Chair)
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	Policy Board Member
Joel Wikner	Mayor pro tem	City of Denver	Policy Board Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Mark A. Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Roman Lensing	County Engineer	Chickasaw County	TTC Member
Jeff Scalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC Member
Brian Keierleber*	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member (Online)
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (Online)
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	City of Clarksville	Attendee
Annette Mauser	Council Member	City of Quasqueton	Attendee
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Attendee
Krista Billhorn*	District Planner Supervisor	IDOT	Attendee (Online)
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Sanzida Rahman Setu	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	RTA Staff

*Online Attendees **

The FIRST item was approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Wieland, seconded by Kurtenbach, to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the October 16, 2025, meeting. It was moved by Geerts, seconded by Wikner, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Afterwards, Hildebrandt (Vice Chair) commenced the discussion items.

Discussion Items

1. Context for TIP Amendment – Project BROS-5427(609)--8J-19 New Hampton East Hamilton St Bridge (City Highway Bridge Program)

Fratzke stated about the TIP amendment for the New Hampton East Hamilton St Bridge under City Highway Bridge Program with an anticipated cost of approximately \$85,000. The project is eligible to receive up to \$1.5 million. Billhorn mentioned the project met the criteria for federal funding. The public hearing notice will be posted, and the TIP Amendment will be added to the December 2025 RTA Policy Board agenda for approval.

2. STBG and TA - SA project solicitation for FY 2027 – 2030

Rahman provides an update on STBG and TA - SA project applications for FY 2027 – 2030 cycle. The impact of recent federal government shutdown is yet to be followed and clear guidance from the I government is expected once the offices are fully functional. The FY'29-FY'30 funding is secured. As the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is going to expire in September 2026, priorities for TA-SA projects could shift, depending on the federal government's plan. However, the continuation of TA-SA projects is expected to go as is in the next funding cycle. Fratzke noted the agencies are encouraged to prepare and contact the Iowa Northland Transportation Authority for any guidance regarding the application. Billhorn mentioned the new guidance will be sent out by the IADOT around January-February 2026 and no drastic changes are expected.

3. 2025 REAP Grant Award – Sumner Trail Enhancement Project

Fratzke announced the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant award for the Sumner Trail Enhancement Project in Sumner, Iowa. The City of Sumner will receive \$75,000 as grant to improve existing trails and reroute new trail segments to mitigate flood impacts. Rahman mentioned the regional connectivity potential of the project and encouraged other communities to contact INRCOG for grant application support.

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

- Wieland provided update on D22 project from IA 187 to Delaware and W 35 project which are completed. The STBG funded W-45 project between 130th St and 180th St south of Aurora St will soon begin. The Bridge project, which involves six counties is expected to be ready for March 2026 letting.
- Keierleber mentioned the W-45 project that involves paving streets, south of Aurora will be in February 2026 letting.
- Riherd shared that Butler County wrapped up the asphalt paving works for STP rehab north of Dumont project. Two off-system projects including a box culvert and a concrete slab bridge construction will be in the December 2025 and January 2026 lettings.
- Moore shared that Bremer County has submitted Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application for two bridge constructions in 2026. They are waiting for the grant agreement to start the construction process of raised bridges in 2026.
- Lensing shared that Chickasaw County completed two federally aided bridge projects and preparing for two new bridge projects in January 2026 letting that involves pavement markings. A 5.9 miles Cold-in-place recycling (CIR) project is underway funded through TIF.
- Nicholas mentioned that Black Hawk County submitted application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) for a bridge project on Eagle Rd, the funding decision will be announced in December 2025. They signed the federal aid agreement for future STBG funded project that involves resurfacing Washburn Rd over the Cedar River floodplain and floodway zones which will be scheduled in December 2026 letting.
- Mauser sought any in-kind donations to supplement matching funds for a trail project stretching from the City of Quasqueton to Cedar Rock State Park, currently facing funding challenges. The City has reached out to DNR for funding guidelines. Lensing and Fratzke mentioned the limited availability of funds for trail projects and suggested reaching out to IADOT for instructional memorandums and guidance for in-kind land acquisition process. Keierleber suggested getting the landowners on board. He offered to help navigate the funding process.
- Schildroth mentioned that Grundy County rescheduled STBG funded pavement marking project letting from January to July 2026. The Pioneer Trail project has been delayed by IADOT. Fratzke requested Billhorn to share if there are any generally agreed-upon design standards by the DOT to move the project forward. Billhorn clarified that while the funding is a separate issue, the design standards are managed by the DOT Districts.
- Billhorn later shared that the project on the Waverly Bridge deck pouring should be completed and sidewalk on one side is expected to open in late November 2025. The Iowa 58 project is underfunded by \$25 million, so the decision is pending on this project. The feasibility study for US 63 and C 57 intersection is moving along, with a goal to finish by summer. The DOT is measuring the

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on special intersections or any area of interest, expected to be completed in November 2026.

- Schmitz discussed that the 2026 Street Rehabilitation Project has started in Independence and the City reapplied for a BUILD grant for 1st St W. They will start the engineering process for the Enterprise Drive Trail Phase II Project. Schmitz shared positive feedback on the BUILD grant application and the increased funding availability for FY'26 cycle.

5. General Discussion

No general items were discussed.

There being no further discussion, Hildebrandt (Vice Chair) called for a motion to adjourn. Geerts moved the motion, seconded by Wikner. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff