

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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
Duane Hildebrandt	Supervisor	Bremer County	Policy Board Member (Vice Chair)
Joel Wikner	Councilmember	City of Denver	Policy Board Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Mark A. Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Policy Board Member
James Bronner*	City Administrator	City of Waverly	Policy Board Member (Online)
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Jeff Skalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC Member
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	City of Clarksville	TTC Member
Brian Keierleber	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member (Online)
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (Online)
Mark Crawford	Project Manager	Crawford Engineering & Surveying, Inc.	Attendee (Online)
Krista Billhorn*	District Planner Supervisor	IDOT	Attendee (Online)
Travis Halm	Metropolitan & Regional Planning Coordinator	Attendee (Online)	Attendee (Online)
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 Kurtenbach, seconded by Keierleber, to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the November 20, 2025, meeting. It was moved by Schildroth, seconded by Geerts, to approve the minutes with amendment for typo. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next was the public hearing to consider and approve 2026-2030 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). The Chair Hilderbrandt opened the public hearing at 1:03 p.m., following a motion by Wikner, seconded by Skalberg. The motion carried unanimously. Oriakhi noted that PTP is a federally required planning document for human service transportation services and the region. It guides the region in transportation services over the next five years. PTP was developed in collaboration with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which has led to streamlined goals for the next five years. Chair Hilderbrandt then asked if there were any additional comments or discussion on the PTP. Hearing none, the motion was made by Wieland, seconded by Skalberg. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing officially closed at 1:07 p.m. Following that, Chair Hilderbrandt called for a motion to approve the 2026-2030 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). Keierleber moved to approve, seconded by Wikner. The motion carried unanimously with approval.

The next agenda was to open the public hearing to consider and approve TIP Amendment – Project BROS-5427(609)--8J-19 New Hampton East Hamilton St Bridge (City Highway Bridge Program). Hilderbrandt (Chair) opened the public hearing at 1:08 p.m., following a motion by Wieland, seconded by Geerts. The motion carried unanimously. Rahman noted that this project meets federal funding eligibility and anticipated budget is approximately \$85,000. This will be programmed for FY2027. Chair Hilderbrandt then asked if there were any additional comments or discussion on the TIP Amendment. Hearing none, the motion was made by Skalberg, seconded by Geerts to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing officially closed at 1:11 p.m. Following that, Chair Hilderbrandt called for a motion to approve the TIP Amendment. Skalberg moved to approve, seconded by Wikner. The motion carried unanimously with approval.

Afterwards, Hildebrandt (Vice Chair) commenced the discussion items.

Discussion Items

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

- Keierleber shared an update for the Buchanan County bridge project involving six counties which is postponed to April 2026 letting due to the right-of-way challenges in few Counties involved. The W-45 project that involves paving streets, south of Aurora will be in February 2026 letting.
- Nicholas shared that Black Hawk County is waiting on the application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) for a bridge project on Eagle Rd. The funding decision is likely to come in March 2026. Additionally, they are working on a couple of bridge construction/improvement projects.
- Moore mentioned that Bremer County is also waiting on the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application for two bridge constructions in 2026. Additionally, they were awarded Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for five bridge projects which they plan to begin construction in 2027.
- Kurtenbach mentioned there is a need for state funding for the Highway 63 Cedar Wapsie intersection. Billhorn shared that the IDOT has started a feasibility study to look for improvement opportunities at the intersection.
- Skalberg mentioned that Grundy County rescheduled STBG funded pavement marking project letting from January to July/August 2026. The Pioneer Trail project has been delayed by IADOT due to the requirement of clear zone along the highway which needs to be kept clear between the trail and the highway.
- Billhorn shared they are going to reapply for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for the Iowa 58-Greenhill Rd project which is underfunded by \$25 million.
- Schmitz mentioned that the City of Independence also preparing to reapply for BUILD grant for the improvements of 1st St W with an approximate budget of \$20 million.

2. General Discussion

No general items were discussed.

The board congratulated Keierleber for being recognized as Citizen of the Year by INRCOG for his long-time commitment and involvement in the region. The board also congratulated Nicholas for receiving the Iowa County Engineers Association's Engineer of the Year Award. There being no further discussion, Hildebrandt called for a motion to adjourn. Wikner moved the motion, seconded by Wieland. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff