

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICY BOARD**

THURSDAY, March 19, 2026

MINUTES

Barnett (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
Mark A. Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Greg Barnett	Supervisor	Butler County	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Policy Board Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Jeff Skalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC Member
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	TTC Member
Roman Lensing	County Engineer	Chickasaw County	TTC Member
Alex Davis	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member
Jerald Heuer	Mayor	City of Clarksville	TTC Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (Online)
James Bronner*	City Administrator	City of Waverly	TTC Member (Online)
Ben Bonner	Executive Director	Buchanan County Conservation	BPAC Member
Ryan Brennan	Assistant County Engineer	Black Hawk County	Attendee
Mark Crawford	Project Manager	Crawford Engineering & Surveying, Inc.	Attendee
Cherrie Northrup*	Planning Administrator	Black Hawk County Conservation	Attendee (Online)
Krista Billhorn*	District Planner Supervisor	IADOT	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 meeting started with the approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Schildroth to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the February 19, 2026, meeting. Motion was moved by Hildebrandt, seconded by Schares to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next was the public hearing to review and adopt the final 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Barnett (Chair) requested a motion to open the public hearing on March 19, 2026 at 1:03 p.m. motion was made by Hildebrandt, seconded by Kurtenbach. The motion carried unanimously. Hearing no public comment, the Chair Barnett called for any additional comments or discussion on Final LRTP. Hearing none, the motion was made to close the public hearing by Wieland, seconded by Geerts. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing officially closed at 1:05 p.m. Following that, Barnett called for a motion to adopt the Final 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Heuer moved, seconded by Geerts. The motion carried unanimously.

Afterwards, Barnett (Chair) commenced the discussion items.

Discussion Items

1. List of Available Transportation Grants for Cities and Counties

Setu presented a newly developed list of grants that is now available on the Black Hawk County MPO website at <https://bhcmmpo.org/funding-opportunities/>. In the past, grants were shared individually as they became available, but this approach provides a centralized, year-round resource accessible to the applicants. The list is created to help the Cities, Counties and INRCOG team identify funding opportunities, track deadlines, and determine which projects best align with specific grants. It can be accessed under the Services tab by selecting "Funding Opportunities" and scrolling down, where each grant name links directly to its official webpage for more detailed information. This tool serves as a starting point for those interested in applying for grants by offering basic, easily accessible information. Additionally, Fratzke noted that updates to the INRCOG website are currently underway, with plans to eventually integrate the MPO, and RTA websites to create a more seamless and unified user experience.

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

- Buchanan County will start the W-45 project at the beginning of April 2026. Additionally, a foot bridge project is included in a bundle with six other counties and is scheduled for an April letting.
- Grundy County scheduled their STBG funded pavement marking project letting in September/October 2026. The Pioneer Trail crossing got approved by IADOT which was on hold due to the requirement of clear zone along the highway which needs to be kept clear between the trail and the highway.
- Chickasaw County is preparing to submit the concept for the STBG funded V56 project in FY27. They are working with the City of Alta Vista to apply for Community Project Funding.
- Butler County has signed the RAISE grant agreement for the bridge project, but FHWA organized the project differently. So, the project will need to move directly into an amendment process to address these changes.
- City of Clarksville's street project has begun initial measurements and is expected to go out for bids around May 2026. The project will be funded locally by the City of Clarksville, with no external grants currently available, and suggestions for funding are welcomed. It was noted that small communities often have limited participation and fewer funding opportunities, as eligibility is typically based on functional classification, which may not favor smaller city streets.
- IADOT has several construction projects upcoming in the region. The hwy 218 interchange north of Janesville is expected to open in Fall 2026. Bridge approach work is planned on hwy 63 near Denver, along with reconstruction of US 20 from Hudson Rd to hwy 63 starting soon. Additional projects include a new roundabout at IA 57 and Union Rd, paving on IA 24 east of New Hampton, and landscaping work at interchanges along hwy 63 and 218.

3. General Discussion

Billhorn shared that the DOT commission met virtually to discuss the five-year program, including funding priorities and stewardship goals. Due to overprogramming in later years, approximately \$50 million in non-interstate pavement rehabilitation projects will be shifted from 2028 to 2027 and distributed across districts,

though specific projects have not yet been selected. Statewide 30 BUILD grant applications have been submitted, including one in Cedar Falls for Greenhill Rd and City of Independence application, with award notifications expected in Summer 2026. Additionally, a public meeting is scheduled for April 15 in Denver at the Community Hall to present safety improvement alternatives for the US 63 and C57 intersection.

The board discussed the recent governor's proposed property tax reform aimed at reducing tax burdens. The bill include a cap on local government revenue growth, residential assessment exemption and special tax freezes for seniors.

There being no further discussion, Barnett called for a motion to adjourn. Wikner moved the motion, seconded by Greets. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Sincerely,
Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff