

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEETING NOTICE**

**INRCOG BOARD ROOM
229 EAST PARK AVENUE
WATERLOO, IA**

THURSDAY, April 16, 2026, 1:00 PM

AGENDA

Actionable Items

1. Approval of the agenda.
2. Review and consider approval of the minutes for the March 19, 2026 meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Draft RTA FY 2027 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) - https://bhcmmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2-rta_fy_27_tpwp_text.pdf
2. Project updates (TA-SA/TAP and STBG)
3. General discussion.
4. Adjournment

www.bhcmmpo.org/rta

Everyone can come to this meeting. If you need special help to join, call INRCOG at (319) 235-0311 at least two days before the meeting.

Policy Board Members (Term Ending 12/31/2026)

Representing	Name	Title
Black Hawk County	Ritch Kurtenbach	Supervisor
Bremer County	Duane Hildebrandt	Supervisor (Vice Chair)
Buchanan County	Keith Wieland	Supervisor
Butler County	Greg Barnett	Supervisor (Chair)
Chickasaw County	Scott Cerwinske	Supervisor
Grundy County	Mark Schildroth	Supervisor
City of Waverly	James Bronner	City Administrator
City of Independence	Brad Bleichner	Mayor
City of Denver (Small City At Large)	Joel Wikner	Councilmember
City of Dunkerton (Small City At Large)	Michael Schares	Mayor
City of La Porte City (Small City At Large)	Jane Whittlesey	City Clerk
City of New Hampton (Small City At Large)	Steve Geerts	Mayor

Transportation Technical Committee Members (Term Ending 12/31/2026)

Representing	Name	Title
Black Hawk County	Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer
Bremer County	Landon Moore	County Engineer
Buchanan County	Alex Davis	County Engineer
Butler County	John Riherd	County Engineer
Chickasaw County	Roman Lensing	County Engineer
Grundy County	Jeff Skalberg	County Engineer
City of Waverly	James Bronner	City Administrator
City of Independence	Matthew Schmitz	City Manager
City of Denver (Small City At Large)	Joel Wikner	Councilmember
City of Dunkerton (Small City At Large)	Michael Schares	Mayor
City of La Porte City (Small City At Large)	Jane Whittlesey	City Clerk
City of Clarksville (Small City At Large)	Jerald Heuer	Mayor

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members (Term Ending 12/31/2026)

Representing	Name	Title
Black Hawk County Conservation	Mike Hendrickson	Executive Director
Bremer County Conservation	Andrew Hockenson	Director
Buchanan County Conservation	Ben Bonner	Executive Director
Butler County Conservation	Matt Wilken	Executive Director
Chickasaw County Conservation	Chad Humpal	Director
Grundy County Conservation	Nick Buseman	Executive Director
City of Waverly	James Bronner	City Administrator
City of Independence	Matthew Schmitz	City Manager
City of Denver (Small City At Large)	Joel Wikner	Councilmember
City of Dunkerton (Small City At Large)	Michael Schares	Mayor
City of La Porte City (Small City At Large)	Jane Whittlesey	City Clerk
City of Clarksville (Small City At Large)	Jerald Heuer	Mayor

**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

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, March 19, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Joel Wikner	Councilmember	City of Denver	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 **

A. Introduction

The introduction of the attendees was made at the beginning of three consecutive meetings.

B. Actionable Items

1. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting started with making a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was moved by Schares, seconded Lensing. Motion carried unanimously. The next agenda was work session to develop the draft Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program for FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

2. STBG Program Work Session for the FY 2027-2030 TIP

a. Updates for projects currently programmed

No new updates have been shared. The board moved to the next agenda item and started the presentation of the new project applications.

b. Presentations by New Project Sponsors

Buchanan County - V62 Reconstruction Jesup to D16

This project involves reconstructing a 3.5-mile segment of V62 by removing and crushing the existing pavement, reusing it as base material, and repaving the roadway with 10" concrete. Excavated material from base and pavement preparation will be utilized to widen the shoulders to 10' on each side of the roadway. The project will extend from the intersection of V62 and North Street on the north side of Jesup to 175th Street (D16). The sponsor has requested \$2,600,000 STBG funds in FY2028.

Chickasaw County - V21 Restoration Project

This project involves improving approximately 4 miles of V21, extending north from the Bremer County line to State Hwy 346, through the placement of a 7" Portland Cement Concrete (P.C.C.) overlay. The existing roadway surface is rapidly deteriorating, with widespread cracking, raveling, and wheel rutting that pose safety concerns. The project will enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system by providing a more durable surface capable of supporting increased traffic volume and heavier vehicles. While the P.C.C. overlay is the preferred option, an alternative approach consisting of 4 inches of Cold-in-Place Recycling followed by a 3-inch Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) overlay may be considered depending on available funding. The sponsor has requested \$2,276,000 STBG funds in FY2030.

c. Programming of STBG projects

Based on project functionality, STBG allocation, and overall importance, the board recommended advancing both projects in FY 2030, with funding levels reduced from the amounts originally requested. The Buchanan County V62 Reconstruction project was awarded \$1,700,000, approximately 65% of the requested amount. The Chickasaw County V21 Reconstruction project was awarded \$1,400,000, approximately 61.5% of the requested amount.

d. Review and Consider approval of the recommended TA-SA/TAP Project to Policy Board

At the end of programming session, a motion was made to recommend the selected project to the Policy Board for review and consideration for approval. The motion was moved by Moore, seconded by Wikner. Motion carried unanimously.

C. General Discussion

Schmitz recommended including the number of times a project has been submitted for STBG funding in the project information section. This information would provide additional context on project history and competitiveness and help evaluating funding priorities.

There being no further discussion, Fratzke called for a motion to adjourn. Skalberg moved the motion, seconded by Wikner. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Sincerely,
Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BYCYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, March 19, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Joel Wikner	Councilmember	City of Denver	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)
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Mark Crawford	Project Manager	Crawford Engineering & Surveying, Inc.	Attendee
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 **

A. Introduction

The introduction of the attendees was made at the beginning of three consecutive meetings.

B. Actionable Items

1. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting started with the approval of the agenda. The next agenda item was work session to develop the draft Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TA-SA/TAP) program for FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

2. Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA/TAP) Program Work Session for the FY 2027-2030 TIP

a. Updates for projects currently programmed

No new updates have been shared. The board moved to the next agenda item and started the presentation of the new project applications.

b. Presentations by New Project Sponsors

City of Independence - 6th Avenue SW Trail Extension– Phase 2

This project involves constructing approximately 0.4 miles of an 8-foot-wide bicycle trail that connects to the existing trail along 6th Avenue SW. The trail will begin at the intersection of Enterprise Drive and Pines Drive and extend north along 6th Avenue SW to Lovers Lane. It will provide access to The Pines 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Additions, Jackson Green 1st Addition, and the city's existing trail system, while also creating a link to Triangle Park. The sponsor has requested \$400,058 TA-SA funds in FY2028.

Butler County - Utica Ave Trail

This project involves constructing a 2,750-foot separated shared-use path along Utica Ave to support both pedestrian and bicycle travel, extending from Beaver Valley Street to the New Hartford city limits. The project will require the acquisition of about one acre of right-of-way and will provide a safer connection for pedestrians and bicyclists between the Deer Ridge/Evergreen Heights neighborhoods and the City of New Hartford. Currently, both pedestrians and cyclists share County Route T55 (with an AADT of 1,120), leading to conflicts with vehicle traffic. The sponsor has requested \$360,000 TA-SA funds in FY2028.

c. Programming of TASA/TAP projects

Based on the functionality, TAP eligibility and readiness of the project, the board recommended the City of Independence 6th Ave SW Trail Extension project for funding in FY 2028.

d. Review and Consider approval of the recommended TA-SA/TAP Project to Policy Board

At the end of programming session, a motion was made to recommend the selected project to the Policy Board for review and consider approval. The motion was moved by Moore, seconded by Schares. Motion carried unanimously.

C. General Discussion

No general items were discussed.

There being no further discussion, Fratzke called for a motion to adjourn. Moore moved the motion, seconded by Lensing. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Sincerely,
Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff