

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICY BOARD**

THURSDAY, June 18, 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
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Policy Board Member
Greg Barnett	Supervisor	Butler County	Policy Board Member (Chair)
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
Brad Bleichner	Mayor	City of Independence	Policy Board Member
Alex Davis	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk 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
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (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 Schildroth, seconded by Wikner to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the May 21, 2026, meeting. Motion was moved by Schildroth, seconded by Wieland to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next, Barnett (Chair) called for a motion to consider the letter of support for Black Hawk County State Recreational Trails application. The board discussed the application by the Black Hawk County Conservation to relocate and install a historic 100-year-old bridge near Hwy 218 by La Porte City. The County Conservation is preparing the grant application and requested INRCOG to support the project. Motion was made by Schildroth, seconded by Hildebrandt. The motion carried unanimously and approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

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

- Buchanan County is expecting to wrap up the W-45 project in a few months. Additionally, the deconstruction of boxed culvert project is being started.
- Grundy County started working on the Twin Cell 12-by-10 box culvert project, with the contractor already completing the third and fourth concrete pours.
- Bremer County has paved 10 miles of B21, and the project check plans have been submitted. Additionally, two federally funded bridge projects are scheduled for next year.
- Black Hawk County in partnership with the City of Waterloo has completed four miles of paving Donald St between Sage Rd and Raymond Rd. Another federally funded bridge project will start next month on Winslow Rd. Additionally, two new projects and one federal aid plan are due next year.
- City of Independence is starting the state street resurfacing project. The engineering services agreement for the design of Phase II of the Enterprise Dr. Trail project will be presented to the City Council for approval at its upcoming meeting.
- Chickasaw County is working on several federal aid and local projects.

2. Draft RTA FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Public Input Session

Fratzke presented the STBG and TA/SA allocation for the draft FY 2027 -2030 RTA TIP. From the STBG fund, Buchanan County V62 Reconstruction project was recommended for \$1,700,000 and Chickasaw County V21 Reconstruction project was recommended for \$1,400,000 in FY2030. From TA/SA, the City of Independence 6th Ave SW Trail Extension project was recommended for \$400,058 and Butler County Utica Ave Trail project was recommended for \$360,000 in FY2028.

3. Iowa DOT's Planning Study on Hwy 63 and C 57 Cedar Wapsi intersection

Billhorn provided an update on the ongoing feasibility study, noting that a response had previously been sent to a letter from the residents living near Hwy 63 and Cedar Wapsi intersection, addressing many of the same questions discussed during the meeting. The feasibility study is nearing completion, with final comments currently being incorporated. Once finalized, the DOT will review the two proposed options and decide on the preferred alternative. After a decision is reached, DOT plans to meet with Black Hawk County and the City of Denver to discuss the selected option and next steps. She noted that lowering the speed limit near the intersection is not recommended because it could create inconsistent traffic speeds and increase safety risks. Instead, advisory 55 mph signs are used to encourage drivers to slow while maintaining more consistent traffic flow. She also explained that adding a second set of stop signs in the median is not feasible because the median is too narrow to safely accommodate stopped vehicles. Additionally, flashing stop signs are typically used where drivers frequently run stop signs, which is not the issue at this intersection. Crash data shows that most collisions occur after drivers stop and then misjudge gaps in traffic while crossing or turning, so flashing stop signs would not effectively address the primary safety concern.

4. General Discussion

- **Iowa DOT's - Research Solutions: New approaches to quantify impacts of superloads on Iowa's roads:** The board discussed proposed legislation related to super loads and oversized vehicle permitting. There are concerns about the potential impacts on county roads and bridge monitoring and local oversight.

There being no further discussion, Barnett called for a motion to adjourn. Hildebrandt moved the motion, seconded by Wikner. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Sincerely,
Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff