

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEETING NOTICE**

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025, 1:00 PM

AGENDA

A. Introductions

B. Policy Board Actionable Items

1. Approval of the agenda.
2. Review and consider approval of the minutes for the December 19, 2024 meeting.
3. Hold a Public Hearing and consider approval of an amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) regarding the Brandt Park Trail project in Denver.

C. Discussion Items

1. Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.
 - a. Review [Chapter 3](#)
2. Iowa DOT guidance on TPWP amendments.
3. Project updates (TA SA/TAP and STBG).
4. General discussion.

D. Adjournment

www.bhcmpo.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.

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

MINUTES

Chair Barnett called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to order at 1:00 PM.

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)
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Greg Barnett	Supervisor	Butler County	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Mark Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	Policy Board Member
Matthew Schmitz*	City Manager	City of Independence	Policy Board Member
Jane Whittlesey	City Clerk	City of La Porte City	Policy Board Member
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Policy Board Member
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Brian Keierleber	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Roman Lensing	County Engineer	Chickasaw County	TTC Member
Jeff Skalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC Member
Ben Bonar	Executive Director	Buchanan CCB	BPAC Member
Larry Farley	City Administrator	City of Denver	Attendee
Brad Bleicher	Mayor	City of Independence	Attendee
Krista Billhorn*	District Transportation Planner	Iowa DOT	Attendee
Travis Halm*	Metro-Regional Planning Coordinator	Iowa DOT	Attendee
Kyle Durant	Transportation Planner II	INRCOG	RTA Staff (Secretary)
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	RTA Staff
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	RTA Staff

*Attended Online

The first item on the agenda was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Schildroth, seconded by Hildebrandt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the December 19, 2024, meeting. It was moved by Schares, seconded by Schildroth to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to hold a Public Hearing and consider approval of an amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) regarding the Brandt Park Trail project in Denver. It was moved by Hildebrandt, seconded by Whittlesey to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The Public Hearing opened at 1:03 PM. Durant said the proposed amendment would change the description of the project to better reflect the project of a sidewalk connection and trail loop. The project scope itself is not changing from how it was originally programmed. Proof of publication is on file, and no public comments were received. There being no further discussion, it was moved by Hildebrandt, seconded by Geerts to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. The Public Hearing closed at 1:05 PM. It was moved by Schildroth, seconded by Schares to approve the amendment to the FY 2025-2028 TIP as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was Discussion Items:

1. Draft 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan

a. Review [Chapter 3](#)

Durant went through the draft chapter with the group. Staff plan to create an [interactive map of Pavement Condition Index \(PCI\) data](#) to complement the static map, allowing jurisdictions to zoom in and analyze pavement conditions within their communities. Durant asked whether bridges are still considered for federal rehab and replacement funds based on Sufficiency Ratings and if that information remains relevant. Keierleber explained that funding eligibility is now determined by FHWA Bridge Condition Ratings (Good, Fair, Poor). As a result, Durant stated that staff will update the information and map to reflect Bridge Condition Ratings instead of Sufficiency Ratings. Durant noted that in previous L RTPs, listed road and bridge projects were limited to those programmed with federal aid or Iowa Swap dollars and included in the most recent Transportation Improvement Program. He asked whether there was interest in expanding the scope to include additional projects. The group agreed to incorporate a section highlighting unfunded critical road and bridge projects anticipated for rehab, replacement, or reconstruction over the next 25 years. Durant stated that staff will reach out to cities and counties to gather information on unmet road and bridge needs, including project locations, termini, and estimated costs. Additionally, staff will develop an [interactive map to compile and display responses from jurisdictions](#). Billhorn noted that the Iowa DOT updated the Infrastructure Condition Evaluation (ICE) to the year 2023.

2. Iowa DOT guidance on Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) amendments

Fratzke mentioned that all Regional Planning Affiliations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations have been instructed to temporarily halt any amendments to the TPWP due to ongoing work related to various Executive Orders. Since the RTA has rarely made amendments to the TPWP, the impact should be minimal. Durant asked whether there would be any implications for TIP amendments. Halm suggested that staff contact Iowa DOT Program Management Bureau staff for further clarification.

3. Project Updates (TASA/TAP and STBG)

Butler County

Riherd reported that the County is still in the process of closing out the city bridge replacement project in Greene. The project closeout process in general is taking longer now. On Tuesday's lettings, the County had four bridge deck overlays bundled together. Five bids were submitted, with two coming in 2% under the engineer's estimate, indicating highly competitive bidding. The STBG project on T16, which includes significant ADA improvements in Dumont, is scheduled for letting next month.

Bremer County

Moore said that work on both bridge projects is on hold for the winter. The bridge project on the Chickasaw County line is in the closeout phase, along with the Competitive Highway Bridge Program project from 2021.

Black Hawk County

Nicholas reported that the STBG project within the MPO, a joint effort with the City of Waterloo, is set for the November letting. The County will undergo a Title VI review next week. Additionally, the local road safety workshop was held last Monday.

Buchanan County

Keierleber shared that the County will be completing a pavement rehabilitation and shoulder paving project on D22, a joint effort with Delaware County. The lowest apparent bid for the STBG project on

W35 (Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd) came in at approximately \$6 million. This project includes a safety edge and shoulder paving, which is also included in the RTA Bikeway Plan.

Chickasaw County

Lensing said the County had two projects let in January and February, both of which were competitive and came in under the engineer's estimate.

In general discussion, Durant mentioned that Bremer and Chickasaw Counties reached out earlier this week, requesting Letters of Support from the RTA for the Iowa DOT's bundled county bridge project applications to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program, which includes multiple bridges from both counties. These letters are due by next Friday. The group agreed to provide Letters of Support for each county. Durant also reminded everyone that STBG applications are due by 3:00 PM on Friday, March 14. The TASA Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at 10:00 AM, and the STBG Work Session will be held Thursday, March 20 at 1:15 PM. A short standalone Policy Board meeting will be held at 1:00 PM, just before the STBG Work Session. RTA staff received updated STBG and TASA targets from the Iowa DOT, which have been reflected in the table on the [RTA Funding Opportunities webpage](#). Unfortunately, the region's targets have decreased, causing FY 2027 and FY 2028 to be unconstrained. This will require projects to be moved or reduced in funding to ensure these years are fiscally constrained. The RTA STBG Allocation Ranges Comparison spreadsheet and Draft STBG Program spreadsheet will be shared with all before the STBG Work Session. Additionally, Durant reported that staff created an [interactive map for the Draft RTA 2050 Bikeway Plan](#), which displays existing bicycle facilities in the region along with a working layer of Planned Trails. This layer will be updated as communities submit projects for inclusion in the Bikeway Plan. Keierleber mentioned an upcoming webinar pertaining to Executive Orders and Reauthorization and navigating the future of federal transportation funding.

There being no further business, it was moved by Hildebrandt, seconded by Schildroth to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Durant
Secretary