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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 3:58 PM  
**Subject:** Iowa DOT news release - Iowa transit agencies to receive vehicles and surveillance cameras

### **Iowa transit agencies to receive vehicles and surveillance cameras**

AMES, Iowa – May 12, 2009 – The Iowa Transportation Commission was briefed today on use of \$7.2 million in federal transit capital assistance funding that will be used to replace 37 vehicles, belonging to 12 transit agencies.

Michelle Mc Enany, director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Public Transit, said, "Iowa has had one of the oldest transit fleets in the nation, with 60 percent of its buses operating beyond their useful life. This federal funding, combined with monies received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, provides Iowa with a total of \$33 million in FY2009 to purchase 268 new transit vehicles. That's an all-time record level for annual spending on bus replacement under the state's bus procurement program. Most notably, the new vehicles will reduce the percentage of busses operating past their useful life to 41 percent, which is significant progress in replacing Iowa's aging transit fleet."

Per authorization under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and subsequent appropriations under the federal Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, Iowa received \$7,091,000 for transit capital investments under the Buses and Bus Facilities Program. An additional \$190,000 in transit capital funding was made available for allocation through closeout of projects programmed in previous years, which had come in under budget.

Allocation of funding to specific transit capital projects follows procedures established in the Public Transit Equipment and Facilities Management System (PTMS), which was developed cooperatively between the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) in response to the requirements of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. The PTMS is endorsed by the IPTA, was adopted by the Iowa DOT and was previously approved by the Iowa Transportation Commission.

In addition, funding is being allocated to cover the cost of surveillance cameras on heavy-duty buses that will be purchased using transit funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The cameras were intended to be part of the Recovery Act projects, but would have been eliminated due to higher-than-expected vehicle costs. This benefits 10 transit systems.

A full listing of projects selected is available on [www.iatransit.com](http://www.iatransit.com)

To take a survey on your public transit opinions and passenger transportation needs, please visit [www.iRide21.com](http://www.iRide21.com).

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