

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA ITEMS/COMMISSION ORDERS

Tuesday, August 11, 2009  
Mid-America Center  
One Arena Way  
Council Bluffs

<u>ITEM NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
D-2010-9 8:00 a.m.	*Approving Minutes of the July 14, 2009, Commission Meeting  Commission Comments  Staff Comments	Connie Page	1
PPM-2010-10 8:05 a.m.	*Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund Recommendation	Tamara Nicholson	2
PPM-2010-11 8:10 a.m.	*Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Cass County (Delegation)	Craig Markley	3
8:20 a.m.	Public Input		

\*Action Item

On Monday, August 10, the Commission and staff will tour transportation projects in the Council Bluffs area starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Country Inn & Suites, 17 Arena Way, Council Bluffs, and ending around 3:30 p.m. at the Country Inn & Suites. The Commission and staff will hold an informal meeting at the Mid-America Center, One Arena Way, beginning at 4 p.m. Transportation-related matters will be discussed but no action will be taken.



## Commission Comments

### 1. Monday's Commission Tour

Chairman Sawtelle said this is one of four times a year that the Commission takes "the show on the road" and has the opportunity to see projects that are underway, future projects, needs in different areas, etc. On Monday the Commission and DOT staff toured through much of the Council Bluffs area which has a rich transportation history. He was very impressed with the many projects under way. The Commission saw some bridge construction projects; talked about the Kate Shelly bridge while touring the Union Pacific Harriman Dispatching Center; saw the River Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Park; and finished at Lewis and Clark Park which he thought may well be one of the few places in the state where one can see pretty much every mode of transportation in one spot. You can look across the valley and see the airport, river, rail and highways.

### 2. Commission Workshop Monday Afternoon

Chairman Sawtelle noted the Commission and staff held a workshop Monday afternoon to review in detail the items on the agenda.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Rail Transportation Order No. PPM-2010-10

Submitted by Tamara Nicholson Phone No. 515-239-1052 Meeting Date August 11, 2009

Title Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund Recommendation

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

Iowa's Infrastructure Investment Initiative (I-JOBS) provides \$3 million to the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund.

The Department is requesting to program up to \$500,000 of those funds in FY2010 for application costs, engineering studies, environmental studies, and costs associated with the initiation of passenger rail service.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the Commission approve programming up to \$500,000 from the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund for application preparation costs, engineering studies, environmental studies and costs associated with the initiation of passenger rail service.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleveland	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Miles	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division Director                      Legal                      State Director

PPM-2010-10

Tammy Nicholson, Office of Rail Transportation, said Iowa Code section 327J establishes the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund. Monies deposited into the fund shall be administered by the Director and shall be used to aid with the cost associated with the initiation, operation, and maintenance of passenger rail service. In fiscal year 2010, \$3 million was appropriated to the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund with funding from Iowa's Infrastructure Investment Initiative (I-JOBS). Ms. Nicholson said staff presented information to the Commission at the July workshop on the pre-applications Iowa submitted for the Recovery Act Funding and today's recommendation is to program up to \$500,000 of the FY 2010 funds to be available for application preparation costs, engineering studies, environmental studies and costs associated with the initiation of passenger rail service.

Commissioner Reasner moved, Commissioner Miles seconded the Commission approve programming up to \$500,000 from the Passenger Rail Service Revolving Fund for application preparation costs, engineering studies, environmental studies and cost associated with the initiation of passenger rail service. All voted aye.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION ORDER

Division/Bureau/Office Planning, Programming and Modal Division  
Office of Systems Planning Order No. PPM-2010-11  
Submitted by Craig Markley Phone No. 515-239-1027 Meeting Date August 11, 2009  
Title Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) Application – Cass County (Delegation)

**DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:**

Cass County submitted a RISE Immediate Opportunity application requesting a grant to assist in the construction of approximately 3,168 feet of Glacier Road to Buck Creek Road in the Cass/Atlantic Industrial Park.

Because this project will provide access to 41 acres of RISE-eligible development and in order to maximize RISE support for the project, staff evaluated the application as a RISE Local Development project.

The evaluation and rating for the project will be discussed.

**PROPOSAL/ACTION RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, it is recommended the Commission reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the February 2009 round of applications and award a RISE grant of \$294,456 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE-eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the county share of the RISE funds.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

	Aye	Vote Nay	Pass
Blouin	_____	_____	_____
Cleaveland	_____	_____	_____
Durham	_____	_____	_____
Miles	_____	_____	_____
Reasner	_____	_____	_____
Sawtelle	_____	_____	_____
Wiley	_____	_____	_____

Division  
Director

Legal

State Director

Craig Markley, Office of Systems Planning, said Cass county submitted an immediate opportunity RISE application requesting funds to assist in the construction of approximately 3,168 feet of Glacier Road to Buck Creek Road for a business proposing to locate in the Cass/Atlantic Industrial Park. However, based on capital investment, job creation, and the lots to be open, the proposed RISE roadway is better suited as a RISE local development project. Under RISE local development criteria, Mr. Markley said the project scored 59 points. The total estimated project cost is \$588,912, and the county is requesting a RISE grant of \$294,456 and will provide a 50 percent local match. He introduced Russ Joyce, Executive Director, Cass/Atlantic Development Corporation.

Mr. Joyce introduced Duane McFadden, Chairman, Cass County Board of Supervisors, and John McCurdy, Planner for Southwest Iowa Planning Council. Mr. Joyce said the Cass/Atlantic long-term strategic plan has been to develop the area as shown on the map. In the last couple years the Cass/Atlantic Development Corporation has purchased several pieces of property and has options on some other property along the road. The land has been rezoned from agriculture to industry, placed in an Enterprise Zone, and is in a renewal district.

Mr. Joyce said about three years ago, the Amaizing Energy Board of Directors purchased a 150-acre farm. They entered into an agreement with the Cass County Board of Supervisors that they would pave the road from Iowa 83 (including Glacier Road, Buck Creek Road, and Echo Road) to North Olive Street, a paved road. That is to be a two part project. Part one is to pave the road to the entrance of the ethanol plant for construction purposes and part two would complete the paving to the Olive Street paved road. However, due to the economic situation for the ethanol industry, construction has been halted indefinitely on that facility. Subsequently, Amaizing Energy has more property then what they have use for so the property on the east side of the railroad spur is available for sale. There are two interested parties, and there is a need to have an eastern entrance to that property. The local utility has placed a large sub-station to handle an ethanol plant adjacent to the property. There is a natural gas line adjacent to the property, and the city and county are starting to plan running water and sewer to the property. Mr. Joyce noted Amaizing Energy received a grant from the power fund to do a feasibility study on cellulous availability in the area and there is an opportunity for the Sriya site to do some kind of cellulosic project. Iowa State University is doing the research for that and is helping to market the land.

Mr. Markley reviewed the recommendation of staff.

Commissioner Cleaveland moved, Commissioner Durham seconded the Commission, based on the capital investment commitment and potential for future job creation, reclassify the project as a RISE Local Development project in the February 2009 round of applications and award a RISE grant of \$294,456 or up to 50 percent of the total RISE-eligible project cost, whichever is less, from the county share of the RISE funds. All voted aye.