

# IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

Barnett (Chair) called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to order at 1:01 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
Brad Bleichner*	Mayor	City of Independence	Policy Board Member (Online)
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
John Riherd*	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member (Online)
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (Online)
James Bronner*	City Administrator	City of Waverly	TTC Member (Online)
Mike Hendrickson	Executive Director	Black Hawk County Conservation	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Member
Cherrie Northrup	Planning Administrator	Black Hawk County Conservation	Attendee
Alex Davis	Engineer	Buchanan County	Attendee
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 Skalberg, seconded by Schares to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the December 18, 2025, meeting. It was moved by Kurtenbach, seconded by Schares to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next was the election of officers for 2026. It was moved by Skalberg to approve Barnett as Chair and Hildebrandt as Vice Chair, seconded by Schildroth. Motion carried unanimously.

Afterwards, Barnett (Chair) commenced the discussion items.

## Discussion Items

### 1. RTA support letter for New Hampton RISE Grant Application

Setu discussed the RISE grant application for the City of New Hampton's South Industrial Park. The grant is being prepared for extending Rusty Kennedy Rd and paving 225<sup>th</sup> St. Lensing raised jurisdictional and financial concerns about paving 225<sup>th</sup> St as the road is not fully within city limits. This project involves improving the road without a clear direction for future maintenance and

construction costs. Riherd shared a similar situation with the City of Parkersburg. They used the Iowa Code 2080 agreement with a clause allowing the city to buy out Butler county's contribution if the area were annexed later. The key difference noted is that, in that case, the city had agreed to cover 100% of construction costs, whereas the current board is hesitant to contribute any funds for a road serving a business not yet present. Lensing recommended New Hampton to establish a 28E agreement with Chickasaw County on future construction and maintenance of 225<sup>th</sup> St. With this discussion, a motion was made by Skalberg to provide the RTA support letter for the RISE application, seconded by Wikner. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Project updates (TASA/TAP and STBG).**

- Chickasaw County is working on bridge price estimation for B 56 project. Additionally, the local Golden Place and HMA project will be held in February 2026 letting.
- Buchanan County is preparing for the W-45 project that involves paving streets on the February 2026 letting. They are preparing for three bridge projects letting in December 2026-January 2027.
- Black Hawk County is working on a steel bridge project that came in 10% over budget due to steel prices.
- Bremer County resubmitted the RAISE grant to FHWA addressing feedback from the grant committee.
- Grundy County is acquiring land for bridge construction south of New Hartford. The project involves historical issues, and a bridge is needed rather than a culvert.
- City of Denver's State funded street resurfacing project will be held in March 2026 letting.
- Butler County is working on a STP funded project in the City of Dumont and they wrapped up rehab and overlay works on the streets, the pavement marking work will begin in the Spring 2026. Currently they are working on two HBP funded off-system bridge projects.
- City of Independence started preparing to reapply for the BUILD grant to fund 1<sup>st</sup> St West, with initial meetings held. An engineering proposal for the Enterprise Dr trail project is needed. Planning is starting for upcoming summer projects.
- Black Hawk County Conservation recently worked on improving the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, but some bridges still need future replacement. They are reassessing current needs and project status.

## **3. General Discussion**

A concern was raised about the poor visibility of roadway lane markings, especially at night, noting that the reflective quality seems inadequate. The question is whether a collective complaint should be made to the responsible authority.

Another concern was raised on the Highway 63 Cedar Wapsie intersection safety. The DOT has started a feasibility study to look for improvement opportunities at the intersection. There's discussion about feasibility, cost, and whether speeding is the core issue, as past traffic studies showed overall compliance but some outliers in terms of speeding. This intersection is being analyzed for the NEIA study which might bring potential solutions to safety concerns.

There being no further discussion, Barnett called for a motion to adjourn. Hildebrandt moved the motion, seconded by Lensing. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Sincerely,

Sanzida Rahman Setu  
RTA Staff