



Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report

From the Executive Director

In Fiscal Year 2015, staff stayed involved in numerous projects, grant opportunities and regional initiatives. In addition to several successful grant applications, we completed or initiated several community and regional planning projects ranging from countywide Hazard Mitigation Plans to Comprehensive Plans. We also continued our housing rehabilitation efforts, worked toward completion of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, participated on the Waterloo Complete Streets Advisory Committee, continued our work with the Iowa Waste Exchange, processed numerous contractor certificates of insurance, operated the Regional Transit Commission and provided numerous GIS, mapping, and graphic design services.

We continued our legislative and policy efforts working with our local and state elected officials as well as our congressional delegation on a broad range of issues facing our region. This includes the Cedar Valley Coalition's annual trip to Washington DC in late April, where project updates were provided to Senators Grassley and Ernst and Congressman Blum while addressing the area's priorities relating to transportation, economic development and community development. As a member of the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC), we advocated for an increase in the state's fuel tax and a funding increase for Councils of Governments across the state.

Certainly, some uncharted waters lie ahead! What will the impact of the Medicaid Modernization initiative be on Iowa's public transit systems? Will the recently adopted five-year transportation bill significantly change how the MPO and RTA approach transportation planning? What grant programs will no longer be available? What new programs will take their place? These are just a handful of questions that we will face in the future. With your continued support and hard work of INRCOG staff, I have no doubt that we will turn these challenges into opportunities!

Thank you for another great year!

Kevin Blanshan
Executive Director

FY'15 Income Sources

\$2,101,423 Federal
 \$611,253 State
 \$464,932 Local
 \$261,576 RTC

\$3.4 million

Total FY'15 Income

\$199,500

Total FY'15 Contracts

\$3,327,175

FY'15 Grants Awarded

44

Grant Applications Submitted

17

Grant Applications Awarded

39%

Success Rate

Grants Awarded:

State Recreational Trails | Iowa Dept. of Transportation
 Black Hawk County | Cedar Valley Nature Trail Bridge | \$160,906

Resource Enhancement & Protection | Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
 City of Waterloo | Sherwood Park | \$200,000
 City of Cedar Falls | Washington Park Trail | \$121,200
 City of Waverly | AMVETS Restoration-Area II | \$100,000
 City of Dunkerton | Riverwalk Trail | \$50,000
 City of LaPorte City | Wolf Creek Reclamation & Park | \$75,000
 City of Tripoli | Sweet Water Creek Trail & Park | \$75,000

Iowa Bicycle Coalition
 INRCOG | Partnership with UERPC | \$157,893

State Housing Trust Fund | Iowa Finance Authority
 City of Waterloo | Local Housing Trust Fund | \$108,135
 INRCOG | Local Housing Trust Fund | \$332,205

Community Development Block Grant | Iowa Economic Development Authority
 City of Sumner | Wastewater Infrastructure | \$500,000
 City of Evansdale | Single Family Housing Rehabilitation | \$281,992
 City of Allison | Single Family Housing Rehabilitation | \$212,994
 City of Lamont | Stormwater Management Improvements | \$300,000

RISE - Local Development | Iowa Dept. of Transportation
 City of Hudson | Industrial Park Development | \$551,600

Land & Water Conservation Fund | Iowa Dept of Natural Resources
 City of Dunkerton | Playground Equipment | \$50,000
 City of Evansdale | Angels Park Bridge | \$50,250

Fiscal Year 2015 | Program Highlights

Development

Buchanan County Conservation Survey & REAP Plan | INRCOG conducted a needs assessment survey which asked residents about their knowledge of and experience with County Conservation Board activities including environmental education, recreational activities, use of county parks and facilities, and conservation priorities. INRCOG also updated the Buchanan County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) five-year plan which identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the county's recreational, environmental, and cultural resources. The Plan identifies a vision, goals, and projects to enhance and protect the county's resources.

Bremer County REAP/Conservation Plan | Prepared for the Bremer County Conservation Board, INRCOG assisted with development of the Plan which includes an inventory of existing conditions and natural resources in Bremer County, identifies goals and objectives, and short-term and long-term strategies and responsibilities for plan implementation.

La Porte City Comprehensive Plan | INRCOG developed a Comprehensive Plan that meets the Iowa's Smart Growth and Sustainable Principles and provides a comprehensive, sustainable approach to land use planning, identifies new opportunities, and creates a 'blueprint' for the city's future growth through new development and redevelopment while preserving the community's natural environment and strengthening its quality of life.

Winthrop Strategic Plan | By identifying a planning group, surveying participants, conducting an in-person planning charrette, and developing a short-term course of action, this Strategic Plan will help bridge the gap between long range plans, the municipal budgeting process, capital improvements planning, and the short term priorities of the community.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans | INRCOG worked with representatives from the City of Waverly and the Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District to update the priorities and mitigation activities outlined in Waverly's Hazard Mitigation Plan which will be incorporated into the Bremer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. INRCOG also assisted with Bremer County's first multi-jurisdictional plan which identifies local community policies, actions, and tools to reduce the risk and potential losses of property and lives during a disaster. The Plan covers 23 disaster events including tornados, floods, wildfires, and droughts.

Lamont Sanitary Sewer | This project began with a total budget of just over \$1.5 million with funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Community Development Block Grant program for the construction of a new lagoon cell, force main line, and lift station.

Safe Rooms | The Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District's second safe room was built as an addition to the High School to protect 1,000 persons. Grundy Center Community Schools also constructed a Safe Room, used as classroom space, to provide near-absolute protection for nearly 500 persons. Both projects were funded using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, State of Iowa, and local school district funds.

INREDC Revolving Loan Fund | Two companies in the INRCOG region received funds from INREDC's Revolving Loan Fund. One company was loaned \$69,100, the other received \$125,000. INREDC's loans are designed to assist eligible businesses with fixed asset acquisition, inventory, and working capital needs.

Iowa Waste Exchange - Area 3 | In FY'15, 272 on-site visits and 297 in-house visits with businesses in IWE's Area 3 resulted in the diversion of 297 tons of waste from area landfills saving \$520,795 in disposal costs. The Iowa Waste Exchange program identifies items in the waste stream of area businesses and matches the items with other manufacturers, recyclers and end users who are able to use the by-products.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan | Work on this Plan started with initial meetings and surveys of cities and counties in the Planning Area. This Plan, required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, tracks the progress and efforts of solid waste reduction.

Mission Statement | The Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments established by state law serving the member jurisdictions in Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw and Grundy counties. As a service and planning organization, it is responsible for coordinating, assisting and facilitating programs in Community and Economic Development that will benefit all governmental bodies in the INRCOG region. Emphasis is placed on intergovernmental communication and cooperation, accessing of funds, and the need for continuing, comprehensive planning.

Housing

Housing Rehabilitation | The cities of Evansdale and Allison received Housing Fund grants and each are being assisted by INRCOG with administration of the awards. Evansdale's award of \$281,992 is being combined with \$24,000 in local funds to rehab eight homes; Allison received \$212,994 when, combined with \$18,000 in local funds, will rehabilitate at least six homes.

Housing Trust Funds | The Iowa Northland Regional Housing Council (INRHC) received \$332,205 from the Iowa Finance Authority which is combined with \$94,551 in local match for several housing activities that will assist low- to moderate-income citizens in the INRCOG/INRHC region. INRCOG provided continued administrative support to the Waterloo Housing Trust Fund which was awarded \$108,135 by the Iowa Finance Authority and is combined with \$27,034 in local match to provide affordable housing activities for low- to moderate-income citizens of Waterloo.

Transportation

Transportation Improvement Program | The MPO and RTA developed their FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Programs which contain a listing of transportation projects programmed to receive federal aid.

Pedestrian Master Plan | INRCOG began development of a Pedestrian Master Plan for the Black Hawk County Metropolitan area which will identify issues related to safety, connectivity, wellness, and design. A public input survey was used to collect information from residents and a steering committee consisting of city planning and engineering staff, elected officials, public health officials, public school administration, UNI, and community and business leaders will help guide completion of the plan.

Trail Use | INRCOG prepared a Trail Use report which provides a summary of information gathered from a trail count of users on the trail system in Waterloo and Cedar Falls and data from an online survey providing a demographic make-up of trail users, spending patterns, mode and frequency of use, place of residence, satisfaction with the existing trails, and suggested improvements.

ADT Planning | INRCOG staff and County Conservation Board Directors from several counties began work on a planning document for the American Discovery Trail in Eastern Iowa. Some sections of the trail are hard-surfaced, some are gravel, and some are undeveloped. This collaborative planning effort aims to identify points of interest along the trail corridor and develop project priorities in each county.

Corridor Studies | Staff continued administration of two corridor studies in the metropolitan area. The NEPA phase of the Highway 58 Corridor Study from Greenhill Road to US Highway 20 progressed; final design of the interchange at Viking Road and Highway 58 is expected to begin in early 2016, with construction anticipated in 2017. Consultant selection began for the Northeast Industrial Access Planning Study which will evaluate existing and forecasted freight traffic to and from Waterloo's Northeast Industrial area.

National Household Travel Survey | Work towards implementation of the 2015 National Household Travel Survey add-on (NHTS) in the metropolitan area continued. The NHTS allows MPOs and State DOTs to participate in this survey, which will be used to augment the MPO's Travel Demand Model. The survey will include 1,200 questions, soliciting input on travel characteristics and demographics including questions specific to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan area. The survey will take place in the late winter or early spring of 2016.

Regional Transit Commission

FY'15 Income Sources

\$481,639	Federal	Total FY'15 Income
\$291,932	State	
\$1,105,427	Local	

\$1.8 million

Service Statistics

37,978 Rides	122,671 Rides
287,098 Miles	353,692 Miles
8,659 Hours	16,742 Hours
Direct Service	Sub-provider Service

RTC Drivers

Nathan Asmus
Kathy Decker
Dawn Flockhart
Karla Frazier
Darin Katz
Todd Scott
Linda Sires
Eddis Winstead

INRCOG Staff

Kevin Blanshan | Executive Director
Brian Schoon | Director of Development & Transit
Jim Rodemeyer | Director of Housing
Sheri Alldredge | Director of Administrative Services
Kyle Durant | Transportation Planner II
Ed Holm | RTC Operations Manager
Cindy Knox | Housing Planner II

Ben Kvigne | Environmental Planner II
Codie Leseman | Transportation Planner II
Sidney Noyce | Community Planner
Brenda Ponto | Accountant
Dan Schlichtmann | Data Services Coordinator
Jacob Tjaden | Community Planner II
Hayley Weiglein | Administrative Assistant

Planning
Activities

Grant
Administration

Planning
Activities

Grant
Administration

Economic
Development

Environment

Project
Administration

INRCOG Membership

Allison	Denver	Greene	Lamont	Raymond	Waverly
Alta Vista	Dike	Grundy Center	Lawler	Readlyn	Wellsburg
Aredale	Dumont	Hazleton	Morrison	Reinbeck	Winthrop
Aurora	Dunkerton	Holland	Nashua	Rowley	
Beaman	Elk Run Heights	Hudson	New Hampton	Shell Rock	Black Hawk County
Brandon	Evansdale	Independence	New Hartford	Stanley	Bremer County
Bristow	Fairbank	Ionia	North Washington	Stout	Buchanan County
Cedar Falls	Fredericksburg	Janesville	Parkersburg	Sumner	Butler County
Clarksville	Frederika	Jesup	Plainfield	Tripoli	Chickasaw County
Conrad	Gilbertville	La Porte City	Quasqueton	Waterloo	Grundy County

Executive Committee

Larry Young, Chair | Mayor of Shell Rock

Frank Magsamen, Vice-Chair | Black Hawk County Supervisor

Mark Schildroth, Secretary | Grundy County Supervisor

Jon Crews, Treasurer | Mayor of Cedar Falls

At-Large Members:

Buck Clark | Mayor of Waterloo

Duane Hildebrandt | Bremer County Supervisor

Gary Gissel | Buchanan County Supervisor

Bob Martin | Mayor of New Hampton

Jay Ranard | Mayor of Tripoli

Board and Committee Chairs

INRCOG Board of Directors | Larry Young, Mayor of Shell Rock

Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Transportation Policy Board | Jon Crews, Mayor of Cedar Falls

Iowa Northland Regional Economic Development Commission | Ken Kammeyer, Bremer County Supervisor

Iowa Northland Regional Housing Council | Rudy Jones, City of Waterloo

Iowa Northland Regional Transit Commission Advisory Committee | Frank Magsamen, Black Hawk County Supervisor

Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority | John Miller, Black Hawk County Supervisors

Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

229 E. Park Ave. | Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Phone (319) 235-0311 | Fax (319) 235-2891 | www.inrcog.org