IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICY BOARD

THURSDAY, September 17, 2026

MINUTES

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

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Steve Geerts	Mayor	City of New Hampton	Policy Board Member
Joel Wikner	Council member	City of Denver	Policy Board Member
Michael Schares	Mayor	City of Dunkerton	Policy Board Member
Keith Wieland	Supervisor	Buchanan County	Policy Board Member
Mark A. Schildroth	Supervisor	Grundy County	Policy Board Member
Duane Hildebrandt	Supervisor	Bremer County	Policy Board Member (Vice Chair)
Ritch Kurtenbach	Supervisor	Black Hawk County	Policy Board Member
Greg Barnett	Supervisor	Butler County	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Jeff Skalberg	County Engineer	Grundy County	TTC Member
Cathy Nicholas	County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Alex Davis	County Engineer	Buchanan County	TTC Member
John Riherd	County Engineer	Butler County	TTC Member
Landon Moore	County Engineer	Bremer County	TTC Member
Matthew Schmitz *	City Manager	City of Independence	TTC Member (Online)
Cherrie Northrup*	Planning Administrator	Black Hawk County Conservation	Attendee
Mark Crawford*	Project Manager	Crawford Engineering & Surveying, Inc.	Attendee
Nick Fratzke	Director of Transportation	INRCOG	RTA Staff
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 Schildroth, seconded by Hildebrandt to approve the agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the July 16, 2026, meeting. Motion was moved by Hildebrandt, seconded by Schildroth to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next Barnett commenced the discussion items.

Discussion Items

1. **Project updates (TASA/TAP and STBG).**
    - Black Hawk County has finished project engineering work for the federally funded bridge project on Winslow Rd. The County is expecting federal aid for Eagle Rd bridge replacement project over Miller Creek.

- Bremer County has two CHBP funded bridge projects scheduled for November 2026 letting and two raised bridge projects scheduled for December 2026 letting. Additionally, two STBG funded culvert replacement projects are scheduled for next year.
- Butler County held a bid letting in September 2026 for a federally funded bridge project. Additionally, the county engineers are assisting the County Conservation Department with a TAP funded project that involves work on approximately a two-mile asphalt trail. Current work is progressing from Cedar Avenue through Dumont toward Franklin County.
- Grundy County's STP funded T37 project bid was in September 2026.
- Buchanan County's STP funded W45 project is nearing completion, and the design side is progressing well. They are currently developing plans for other projects.
- City of Denver's asphalt reconstruction project on the State street is underway, and they had bid letting for Brandt Park Bike Lane construction project.
- City of Independence Enterprise Drive Trail Phase II project is currently under design. The BUILD grant application for 1st St West was unsuccessful, and the City is awaiting a debrief with the Federal Department of Transportation before determining whether to re-apply. The treatment plant project is currently under construction, with a total project cost of approximately $60 million.

2. General Discussion

- **INRTC OnBoard Public Transit Service Overview**
  Fratzke provided a general overview of OnBoard Public Transit, INRCOG's regional demand-response riding service that operates in the six-county region. The discussion included current fares, service availability, and the ability to provide trips between surrounding communities and the metro area. Ridership is approximately 3,000 trips per month, with a plan to hire additional drivers to increase capacity. The Board discussed improving public awareness through social media, printed materials, local businesses, libraries, and community events. Online scheduling is available through the new software but has not yet been implemented, with the current system requiring approximately 24 hours advance notice for rides.

- **Iowa DOT's Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)**
  Setu discussed Iowa DOT NOFOs for three funding programs - Federal Recreational Trails, Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP), and statewide TASA/TAP applications due October 1, 2026. The discussion involved eligible projects, including regional trails, active transportation, safe routes to school, transit, and projects that reduce transportation related environmental impacts for ICAAP and TASA applications. The group also discussed a resident's request to place rumble strips on Highway 21 median and plans to contact the DOT's traffic and safety office to determine eligibility and whether improvements are already planned.

- **Iowa Trails and Bike Summit**
  Fratzke talked about the annual Iowa Trails and Bike Summit on October 2, 2026, at Iowa State University in Ames and encouraged members interested in bikes and trails to attend.

Barnett asked for any additional business or concerns. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. Hildebrandt moved the motion, seconded by Wikner. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Sincerely,
Sanzida Rahman Setu
RTA Staff