

Rescheduled Transportation Day 2013 Set for February 27

For Immediate Release: February 21, 2013

Des Moines, Iowa – Rescheduled Transportation Day at the State Capitol will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, under the theme “It’s time for a dime.” Representatives from Iowa highway associations and coalitions along with other stakeholders will again make the case for an increase in transportation infrastructure income for Iowa to maintain and build the state’s roads and bridges. They propose a 10 cent increase in the state’s fuel user fee.

“While an Iowa Poll released by the *Des Moines Register* last week indicated a majority of Iowans do not support a gas tax increase, there’s a much bigger picture to consider,” remarked Shirley Phillips, president of the US 20 Corridor Association and executive director of Sac Economic and Tourism Development. “The hard reality is Iowa’s roads, highways, and bridges are in bad shape and will only get worse unless we increase funds available to maintain and grow our transportation infrastructure. Iowans should not be satisfied with third-worst-in-the-nation bridges or a system forced into maintenance only – no expansion transportation philosophy.”

Iowa’s fuel user fee in 1989 was 20 cents per gallon for gasoline, 19 cents per gallon for gasohol, and 22.5 cents per gallon for diesel. If the consumer price index is applied to each of these rates, today they should be 37.1 cents per gallon (+17.1 cents), 35.3 cents per gallon (+16.3 cents), and 41.8 cents per gallon (+19.3 cents) to have the same economic impact. In another comparison, were the 1989 fuel user fees correlated to Iowa’s Construction Cost Index (through the 3rd quarter of CY 2012), the rates per gallon would be 56.8 cents (+35.8 cents), 54 cents(+35 cents), and 63.9 cents (+41.4 cents) respectively.

Year	Gasoline User Fee per Gallon	Gasohol User Fee per Gallon	Diesel User Fee per Gallon
1989	20.0	19.0	22.5
2012	21.0	19.0	22.5
2012 (through Nov. 2012) (if tax rate kept up with Consumer Price Index through	37.1	35.3	41.8

Nov. 2012)			
2012 (if tax rate kept up with Iowa's Construction Cost Index through 3 rd Quarter CY 2012)	56.8	54.0	63.9

Information provided by Iowa Department of Transportation.

On Transportation Day, participants will gather for a morning briefing at the Wallace Building Auditorium before moving to the State Capitol to meet one-on-one with legislators about revenues versus needs.

“If we don’t raise the fuel user fee, Iowans pay the price in terms of jobs, economic development opportunities, along with compromising the safety of its citizens,” stated Larry Winum with the Southwest Iowa Coalition and US 34 corridor. “The **IDOT** says 20 percent of traffic on our state’s roads and highways is from out-of-state. An increase in the fuel user fee captures revenue from everyone who uses our roads – not just Iowans – and is the most fair, immediate way to generate the monies needed to maintain and grow our transportation network. Plus, these funds are constitutionally protected to be used for roads in the state.”

Highway associations and coalitions who in other circumstances would be competitors have joined together to organize Transportation Day. “We all share the same common goal, to encourage legislators to do the right thing for Iowa’s roads,” explained Edith Pfeffer, chair of the US 30 Coalition. “A 10 cent increase in the fuel user fee will cost the average driver just \$44 a year. Yet it will provide \$230 million to maintain, repair, and expand our transportation system.”

Organizers invite Iowans with an interest in improving the state’s transportation infrastructure through increased revenues to join them for Transportation Day 2013. Other organizations inviting their membership to participate include the Iowa Bankers Association, Community Bankers of Iowa, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa State Association of County Supervisors, Iowa County Engineer’s Service Bureau, Iowa League of Cities, Associated General Contractors of Iowa, Iowa Good Roads Association, and others.

Transportation Day 2013 - Draft Agenda – February 27, 2013

Theme: *It’s Time for a Dime*

Wallace Building Auditorium

9:30 am Registration/organization

10:00 am Briefing

Confirmed Speakers:

- Scott Newhard – Iowa Association of General Contractors
- David Scott – Iowa Good Roads Association
- Senate Transportation Committee Chair Tod Bowman
- House Transportation Committee Chair Josh Byrnes

11:00 am Adjourn briefing, make more legislator contact assignments, move to Capitol

Capitol – 1st Floor Rotunda

11:30 am Attendees lunch with their legislators followed by additional contacts

1:30 pm Press Conference/Presentation

Participants:

- Governor Terry Branstad
- Iowa DOT
- Highway association/coalition representatives