

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

April 2, 2026

IowaHouseRepublicans.com

Appropriations

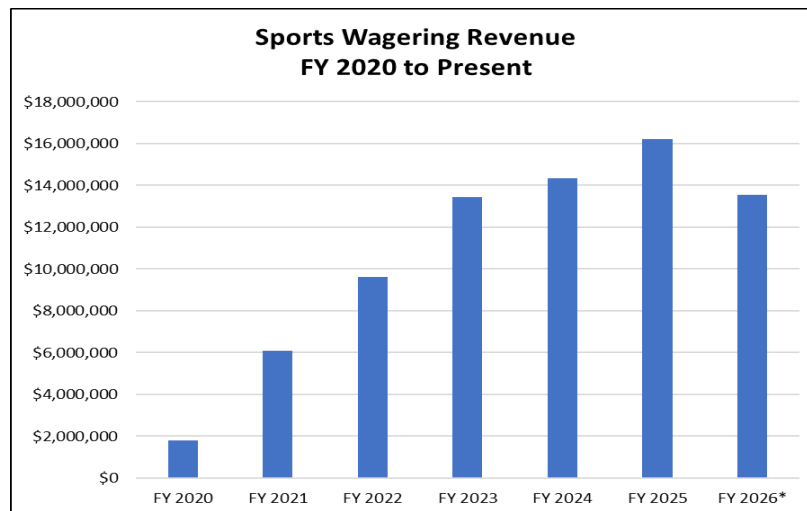
Tax Receipts from Sports Wagering Continue to Grow in Iowa

Legalized sports betting came to Iowa in 2019, with Iowans and residents of neighboring states taking advantage of this activity. Legalized betting has also produced a new revenue stream for the state. Six years after the first bet was placed in Iowa, the Legislature still is wrestling with how to use this growing pot of money.

When sports wagering was enacted, the Legislative Services Agency put out an extensive fiscal note outlining the financial impact of the bill to the state. They estimated that the amount of sports wagering in state would range from \$186 million to \$560 million annually. With the state assessing a low 6.75% tax on the net receipts (after payouts for winning wagers), it was expected that the state would collect between \$630,000 and \$1.8 million annually.

When added to the revenue collected from the legalization of internet fantasy sports wagering, Iowa’s annual take from the new forms of gambling was expected to range from \$900,000 to \$2.6 million annually. The tax revenue would be deposited in the newly created Sports Wagering Receipts Fund, where the money would sit until appropriated by the Legislature. Just before the start of the 2019 college football season, legalized sports betting began in Iowa. Since then, a lot of bets have been placed inside Iowa.

In Fiscal Year 2020 – the first year of sports wagering – the state collected \$1.8 million in sports wagering tax. That was a pretty strong number considering that betting on sports wasn’t legal until August and the pandemic hit in March, shutting down most sporting events for months. But once those events resumed, so did the wagering which has grown substantially every year since. In Fiscal Year 2025, there were \$2.86 billion of bets placed through Iowa-regulated sports books. That generated \$16.2 million in sports wagering tax revenue. The chart below shows the increase in sports wagering tax revenue through February 2026:



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Can the growth continue? That's hard to tell. Neighboring states are not taking any action that would be seen as challenging Iowa's position. To place a bet in Nebraska, a person has to go inside the casino to the sports book – they do not allow bets to be placed via an app. Minnesota continues to discuss legalizing sports wagering, but their legislature has failed to pass any law establishing it. While the Illinois legislature finds ways to create a new tax on betters every year.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

House Republicans Advance Pro-Biodiesel, Pro-Farmer Bill

Some of the best American-made liquid fuels are produced in Iowa: ethanol and biodiesel. This week, House Republicans advanced House File 2701a bill supported by Iowa's biodiesel industry as well as the Iowa soybean farmers. HF 2071 increases a biodiesel production tax credit for plants located in Iowa from 4 cents to 5 cents per gallon. The bill changes the repeal date (expiration) for this tax credit from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2031, to provide more certainty to the biodiesel industry. It is a production tax credit for Iowa-based plants which means incentives are only received if biodiesel gallons are actually produced in state. Over the past few years, three biodiesel plants have been closed impacting soybean bushel demand for Iowa farmers. Tax incentives such as the one included in HF 2071 is one method House Republicans are employing to strengthen Iowa's farm economy through renewable fuels.

Property Tax Reduction for On-Farm Above-Ground Storage Tanks Moves Forward

On Wednesday, the Iowa House Ways and Means Committee passed House File 1050, a bill that reduces property taxes for on-farm fuel storage tanks. Constituents have brought forward concerns with inconsistent property tax assessments for on-farm fuel storage tanks.

Some farms and small businesses had been paying property tax on above-ground storage tanks, while other counties have not. HF 1050 applies to tanks 91,000 gallons or less regardless of the use or intended use on the property. This is the second attempt to get this change approved as the language in HF 1050 is also contained within the Iowa Farm Act (HF 2748) and has already been passed by the full House Agriculture Committee as well as the House Ways and Means Committee earlier this year.

(Contact: Mindy Larsen 1-3096)

Commerce

10 Commerce Bills Sent to the Governor

The House and Senate have been debating for many weeks now and the below ten bills on transmission lines and financial institutions from the Commerce Committee have passed both chambers and now can be considered by the Governor for signature.

HF 2227 – Transmission Line, Ag Restoration - This bill requires certain agricultural land restoration following the construction of a 200-kilovolt electric transmission line. This language originally came from the Governor's 2025 Energy Bill.

SF 2214 – Transmission Line Right of Way - This bill requires DOT to coordinate with utilities and transmission line developers regarding the use of highway/interstate right of way's for transmission line construction.

HF 2583 – Transmission Line Emergency Planning - This bill came from discussions with IUC regarding out-of-state transmission owners. The IUC recommended additional emergency planning and response requirements including filing a emergency response plan with the IUC, notifications to IUC and department of homeland security and emergency response, as well as civil penalties for violations of these requirements.

HF 2232 – Financial Exploitation - This bill comes from the Department of Insurance and Financial Services to allow for delaying disbursement of funds by insurers when financial exploitation is suspected. The bill includes notifications to permissible third parties and the insurance commissioner, timelines for delay, and requires insurers to train employees on financial exploitation.

SF 572 – Health Facility Ownership - This bill prohibits Chinese, Russian, and North Korean ownership of hospitals and health care facilities.

SF 2215 – Contingent Deferred Annuities - This bill exempts contingent deferred annuities from Iowa's nonforfeiture law. A contingent deferred annuity is an insurance product for retirement funds. This is model language from the NAIC.

HF 2497 – Car Sharing - This bill sets up the insurance and liability framework for peer-to-peer car sharing programs under an agreement between a shared vehicle owner and a shared vehicle driver.

HF 2582 – Public Adjustors - This bill is language proposed by the Department of Insurance and Financial Services, though, not a department bill. The bill relates to implementation of last year's legislation that created additional requirements for public adjusters. The bill provides fraud oversight of public adjusters, provides for exemptions related to insurance companies, and updates financial responsibility requirements.

SF 413 – Bank Boards - This bill revises requirements related to bank board of directors' meetings and membership.

SF 2296 – Digital Kiosks - This bill makes suggested changes to Iowa's crypto ATM law from the Attorney General and Banking Division.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

CAT Grants Awarded for Splashpad and Ballroom

Recently, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Board approved CAT Grants for two projects located in Spencer and Webster City.

The City of Spencer was awarded \$224,000 to construct a new splash pad at Riverview Park adjacent to the city's aquatic center. The project will include interactive water play features and pedestrian improvements to create a family-friendly recreation area within the park. Located near commercial districts and community gathering spaces, the splash pad will increase park use while supporting nearby restaurants, retail and service businesses. Total project cost is \$1,122,158.

Local Initiative for Transformation, Webster City (LIFT WC) was awarded \$104,926 for the Elks Ballroom project to finish the upper-level ballroom in the long-vacant historic Elks building in downtown Webster City. The project is the final phase of a seven-year, \$3 million rehabilitation that included structural stabilization, exterior improvements,

installation of an elevator and renovation of the main floor, which will house Wildcat Distilling Co. The ballroom is expected to host weddings, community events, meetings, live entertainment, and nonprofit gatherings. Total project cost is \$430,926.

The CAT program provides financial assistance to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment facilities that enhance quality of life in Iowa. Award recommendations for these funds are made by the CAT Review Committee to the IEDA Board for approval.

(Contact: Kristi Kious 2-5290)

Education

Public Input Sought for State Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Unified Accountability Plan

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking input from the public on the state's proposed options to align state and federal special education accountability systems into one new, unified Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) special education accountability system.

Rather than operate separate state and federal IDEA accountability systems for special education, Iowa's new unified IDEA special education accountability system aims to streamline designations so school districts receive only one special education accountability designation each year, meeting both state and federal requirements. The new system will also align with Iowa's 2024 unified ESSA accountability system (Iowa School Performance Profiles), so that school districts have coordinated special education and school improvement plans.

In designing a new system, the Department leadership conducted initial consultation with all superintendents at each of the nine regional superintendent meetings and consulted district and Area Education Agency (AEA) special education directors, curriculum and instructional leaders, members of the statewide Special Education Advisory Council and AEA executive leadership.

Informed by that robust consultation, the Department is seeking broader input through a statewide survey on three proposed accountability options for determining IDEA designations. The feedback will inform any final updates to the new, unified IDEA special education accountability system.

[Feedback on the proposed unified IDEA special education state accountability plan](#) options will be collected through Friday, April 10. All comments will remain anonymous.

Iowa's new unified school accountability and support system under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) followed a similar process to unify Iowa's school accountability systems by incorporating a streamlined set of core indicators including proficiency results in English language arts, mathematics, science, student academic growth, chronic absenteeism, graduation rates and postsecondary readiness. The new unified school accountability plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in 2024 and used for the first time to determine [school performance ratings and federal designations](#) for the 2023-24 school year.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is federal law ensuring children with disabilities, from birth through age 21, receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to their needs. It mandates special education, related services and early intervention, guaranteeing, through Individualized Education Programs (IEP), that services are provided in the least restrictive environment.

IDEA requires states to develop comprehensive plans for accountability and support, and identify schools for support and improvement using an approved rating system, identifying schools in one of four categories: meets requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention and needs substantial intervention. Iowa's system for accountability and support

under IDEA is being developed with broad public input to fit the state's context and focus on helping schools find solutions that work for them.

(Info from Dept. of Education)

Public School Instructional Coordinator Numbers Increase 504%

Last week, using a national analytics tool developed by Jeff Myers of Save Oregon Schools, this newsletter tracked the statewide growth in school enrollment, teaching staff and non-teaching staff from the 1992-93 school year through the 2024-25 school year.

That data showed Iowa enrollment had increased 2 percent while overall staff had increased 33 percent. Teacher staffing was up 15 percent while non-teaching staff had surged 53 percent.

The same organization has an additional analytical tool that allows anyone to track the growth in statewide public school staffing in Iowa by job category from the 1998-99 school year through the 2024-25 school year.

The job categories analyzed using the tool include:

- Guidance Counselors
- Instructional Coordinators
- LEA Administrative Support Staff
- LEA Administrators
- Librarians/Media Specialists
- Media Support Staff
- Paraprofessionals/Instructional Aides
- School Administrative Support Staff
- School Administrators
- Student Support Services Staff
- Teachers
- All Other Support Staff

Some notable percentage increases from 1998-99 through 2024-25 examined are as follows:

- Instructional Coordinators saw a 504% increase.
- LEA Support Staff saw a 155% increase.
- LEA Administrators saw a 130% increase.
- Paraprofessionals/Instructional Aides saw 98% increase.
- Student Support Services Staff saw a 72% increase.
- School Administrators saw 20% increase.
- Guidance Counselors saw a 14% increase.

The following areas saw a percentage decrease:

- Media Support Staff saw a 67% decrease.
- Librarians/Media Specialists saw a 46% decrease.
- School Administrative Support Staff saw a 34% decrease.
- All Other Support Staff saw a 13% decrease.

For context, the total number of teachers increased 10 percent between 1998-99 and 2024-25.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Instructional Coordinators are staff members responsible for supervising instructional programs at the district or subdistrict level, which includes curriculum development and in-service training for staff.

According to the NCES, the difference between an LEA administrator and a school administrator is the scope of authority. LEA administrators are at the district level while school administrators are at the building level. Student Support Services Staff are staff members who provide non-instructional support to students. Their role is to nurture and assist students in resolving personal, social, and physical problems that might interfere with their ability to learn.

Here is a link to the tool:

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/jmyers/viz/U_S_PublicEducationDashboard/EducationDashboard?publish=yes

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Health and Human Services

House Passes Rural Health Transformation Plan Bill

This week, the Iowa House passed House File 2743 to establish a fund within the state for all money received from the One Big Beautiful Bill Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide regular reports on expenditures from the fund and what cities in Iowa have received those funds.

Iowa has been awarded \$209 million in the first year of a five-year grant program, with over \$1 billion expected to help with rural health care access. Iowa's application for these funds can be found here:

https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/17491/download?inline=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Iowa's plan is titled Healthy Hometowns and has 5 initiatives, with a major initiative being Combat Cancer: Prevent and Treat. The cancer initiative will invest \$183 million to increase screening access, University of Iowa Cancer analyses, cancer hubs, and radon mitigation.

The application makes significant investments in cancer prevention and treatment in the state. This session the legislature began funding radon test kits, and this application builds on that by funding 30,000 radon tests annually and subsidizing mitigation for 500 rural homes per year to combat lung cancer rates in rural Iowa. The plan also includes investments in screening for lung, colorectal, and skin cancers.

Additionally, the funding will go towards regional hubs to have local rural facilities provide diagnostics, chemotherapy and infusion services, and follow-up care, with telehealth consultations with cancer experts. The plan will expand Iowa's oncology workforce along with other health care workforce initiatives throughout the plan.

This work will build on the legislature's \$1 million appropriation to the University of Iowa to study factors that are contributing to cancer in Iowa.

Iowa was the first state in the nation to award RHTP funding. There are current funding opportunities to purchase equipment, recruit rural health care providers and to combat cancer that can be found here:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/healthy-hometowns-iowas-rural-health-transformation-plan>.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Judiciary

Judiciary Bills Awaiting Approval from the Governor

With Week 12 of the legislative session coming to a close, it's a good time to check on bills that originated in the House Judiciary Committee. Here is a list of several bills that have passed both the House and Senate and are headed to the Governor for her signature.

HF 2720- Name Change in a Divorce Decree- In a divorce the court shall issue a name change order, if requested, that is separate from the divorce order. This makes it easier for a name change after a divorce.

HF 2571- Criminal Procedure- Rules Regarding Mental Competency -This bill requires the Court to revise rules of criminal procedure in instances where a person is found not mentally competent to stand trial. Under current law, if a person who has been found not mentally competent to stand trial shows they are not a danger to themselves or others for a set period of time, they can be released. However, in many instances these individuals are avoiding all interaction with others. The new standards proposed in the bill require consideration of the original offense, behavioral history, psychiatric history and current mental status, substance use disorder history, environmental influences and expert testimony and risk assessment.

HF 2515- No Deferred Sentence for Sexual Exploitation of a Minor The bill prohibits courts from granting deferred or suspended sentences to individuals convicted of sexual exploitation of a minor if the victim was under twelve years of age or prepubescent at the time of the offense. This is another example of House Republicans championing legislation to protect children.

HF 2356- Public Defender- Project to Preserve Families -House File 2356 establishes the "Project to Preserve Families," a permanent program run by the Public Defender. The program builds on a previous pilot initiative aimed at supporting families involved in the child welfare system. Its goal is to implement and study innovative models of legal representation—including team-based approaches—to help preserve families, reduce trauma to children, and provide financial and social benefits to families and communities. The State Public Defender is authorized to work with other agencies, seek grant funding, and appoint attorneys for indigent persons even before formal legal proceedings begin. This bill replaces the earlier temporary pilot project and makes the program ongoing across the state.

HF 2349- Disposition of Remains When Not Claimed-The bill changes who has the right and authority to make decisions about the final disposition of human remains, specifically focusing on cremated remains. The bill introduces provisions stating that if a designated person with authority does not claim the decedent's cremated remains within 30 calendar days after receiving written notice from a third party, this authority is forfeited and passes to the next competent adult as outlined in state law.

(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)

Labor

IowaWORKS to Launch Highway 30 Corridor Career Fair Series to Highlight Careers in Central Iowa

IowaWORKS is announcing a new regional job fair series taking place this summer that will deliver workforce services and new career opportunities to communities across the **Highway 30 Corridor**.

For more details, [view the Highway 30 Corridor career series flyer. \(239.46 KB\).pdf](#)

Employer Participation

To prepare, IowaWORKS is calling on area employers with active openings to participate. Each job fair will be shaped to address the specific career needs of each Iowa community. Employers can view the dates and locations of each job fair below, and sign up to participate using the following link: [Highway 30 Corridor Job Series Employer Sign Up](#)
IowaWORKS: 2026 Highway 30 Corridor Job Series (Each Job Fair will take place from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

- May 14, 2026: Carroll
 - *Carroll Public Library, 118 E. 5th St, Carroll, IA 51401*
- May 28, 2026: Boone
 - *Leonard A. Good Community Library, 208 West Mulberry Street, Ogden, IA 50212*
- June 4, 2026: Nevada
 - *SCORE Pavillion, 1543 Fawcett Pkwy, Nevada, IA 50201*
- June 11, 2026: Marshalltown
 - *Iowa Valley Business and Community Solutions, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158*
- June 18, 2026: Tama
 - *Tama Community Center & City Hall, 305 Siegel St, Tama, IA 52339*
- June 25, 2026: Atkins
 - *Atkins Public Library, 84 Main Avenue in Atkins, IA 52206*
- July 9, 2026: Clinton
 - *Hy-Vee Parking lot, 901 South 4th St., Clinton, IA 52732*

All events are open to the public. Employers are requested to [sign up](#) at least three weeks in advance of each job fair. To help communities meet their local workforce needs, the IowaWORKS Mobile Workforce Center will be present at each stop to provide service offerings that are typically only present in a brick-and-mortar location. IowaWORKS staff will be on-site to serve as a partner to job seekers, offering resume assistance, interview coaching, and career planning support.

IowaWORKS held a smaller Highway 30 Corridor job fair series last fall, and this year is excited to expand to feature more communities and industries.

Business Engagement

Iowa Workforce Development's [Business Engagement Division](#) is also supporting the series, working to help employers develop recruitment strategies and connect them with the untapped talent pool – including those that will appear at the Highway 30 Corridor events. Employers can [connect with the nearest Business Engagement Consultant \(BEC\)](#) to learn more about participating in the series.

Central Iowa is full of opportunity, and IowaWORKS is partnering with local employers to help bring these careers to life and meet the unique workforce needs of each community. Any employer can sign up to participate starting today. In the weeks ahead, we'll be encouraging local job seekers to attend so that they can connect with employers who need their skills and access valuable workforce services that can be the difference in their job search.

While the job series will run into July, all communities and employers across the state can learn more about how to request a future visit from the Mobile Workforce Center by visiting: workforce.iowa.gov/mobile-center.

(Info from Iowa Workforce Development)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Public Safety

House Public Safety Committee Awaits Senate Action

The House Public Safety Committee sent several key bills to the Senate this session however many of those bills have not had a vote and continue to languish on the Senate calendar. Here are two major bills Iowans are waiting for the Senate to consider.

HF 2133- Kratom Ban

This bill designates kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance in Iowa. It prohibits the possession of kratom, treating a first offense as a serious misdemeanor, a second offense as an aggravated misdemeanor, and any subsequent offenses as a Class "D" felony. The penalties range from fines and jail time up to five years in prison, depending on the number of prior convictions. The bill aims to regulate kratom similarly to other hallucinogenic controlled substances under state law.

HF 2296- Local Identification

House File 2296 prohibits counties and cities in Iowa from issuing local identification cards to residents. Exceptions are provided for counties that are authorized to issue driver's licenses, nonoperator IDs, and identification for persons with disabilities under existing law, as well as for issuing ID cards to county or city employees and elected officials for work-related purposes

(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)

State Government

IPERS Improvement Bill Heading to Governor's Desk

The Iowa House passed [House File 2345](#), a bill providing more flexibility for the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) to provide improved service to its members and beneficiaries. IPERS is the largest public retirement system in Iowa with over 420,000 members and retirees and funds of over \$40 billion. As the defined benefit pension plan for most of Iowa's public employees, there are many standards written into law to provide these services to Iowans. Occasionally the Iowa Legislature needs to review these laws and ensure that the law reflects the best procedures for the customer service of these members.

HF 2345 makes several small changes that will provide more flexibility and better serve Iowans. If enacted, the new law would authorize IPERS and the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI) to provide the name and last known city of members and beneficiaries that the system does not have contact with to the Treasurer's office to be included in the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt. By sharing the information with the Treasurer's office IPERS and MFPRSI will be able to expand exposure and awareness for these individuals who have funds that belong to them. Additionally, HF 2345 amends Iowa law for when annual statements are sent to members and retirees. Under current law these statements are sent all at once. This approach leads to large spikes in outreach to the system and increases customer wait times. The proposed legislation would authorize IPERS to send these annuals statements based on the birth month of the member. This change both smooths out demand on the customer service employees at IPERS but is timelier for a member is considering retirement.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

Drive to Raise Speed Limit to 60 MPH Speeds Up After House Vote

A long-discussed idea took a major step towards becoming a reality Wednesday, as the Iowa House voted to raise the speed limit on state roads.

Senate File 278 raises the maximum speed on state-regulated two-lane roads from 55 to 60 miles per hour on July 1. This change passed the House on a 76-16 vote Wednesday morning after a surprisingly brief debate. The bill also adjusted the language on speeding violations to reflect the new higher limit.

Passage of the bill does not mean every road will now have a 60-mile-per-hour speed limit. The state still has the authority to set a lower rate on those roads where there are safety concerns. Multi-lane divided highways are still 65 mph. Roads in town are still required to have a speed limit between 20 and 45 miles per hour, depending on type of area the road is in. And counties still retain control over speed limits for secondary roads, which cannot be higher than 55 miles per hour.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Veterans Affairs

Bill to Provide Free Tuition For Vets Heads to Governor's Desk

This week, the Senate unanimously passed House File 2491 to provide free tuition to a regent school for veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rating of 100%. This bill had previously passed the House and now can be considered by the Governor for signature. There is no limit on the number of degrees a veteran can receive, as long as they have been accepted into the program. The veteran must have exhausted all other federal financial assistance.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Ways & Means

Reinvestment District Program Amendments Approved

The Iowa Reinvestment District Program is designed to assist communities in developing transformative projects that improve the quality of life, create and enhance unique opportunities, and substantially benefit the community, region, and state. The program provides for up to \$100 million in new state hotel/motel and sales tax revenues to be “reinvested” within approved districts in an Urban Renewal Area.

Last year, the Iowa Legislature increased the total number of acres allowed in Iowa Reinvestment Districts approved after July 2020 from 75 to 125. IEDA opened a filing window for all existing eligible districts to apply for an expanded district and additional funds (that were not formally awarded). The City of Des Moines and City of Fort Dodge submitted amended district plans.

On October 18, 2024, the City of Des Moines was approved for a maximum benefit amount of \$23.5 million for the Capital City Reinvestment District – which includes the Stadium Neighborhood, Western Gateway and Gray’s Landing – with a commencement date established as January 1, 2028. The city proposed expanding the boundary approximately 50 acres south of East Village in the Market District. The amendment includes mixed-use development with retail, office, hospitality, and housing opportunities. The board approved the amended Capital City Reinvestment

District plan for an additional maximum benefit amount of \$9.5 million, increasing the total maximum benefit amount in the district to \$33 million. The projects within the expanded reinvestment district area represent a \$289.2 million investment.

On April 22, 2022, the City of Fort Dodge was approved for a maximum benefit amount of \$17 million for the Corridor Plaza Reinvestment District with a commencement date of July 1, 2023. The city plans to expand the boundary to include portions of the Central Village and Central River districts, connected by the 1.5-mile Cross-town Connector. The amendment includes downtown building rehabilitations and new mixed-use housing, public improvements and streetscape enhancements, hotel renovations, and a new riverfront restaurant. The amended Corridor Plaza Reinvestment District plan was approved for the additional maximum benefit amount of \$3.5 million, increasing the total maximum benefit amount in the district to \$20.5 million. The projects within the expanded district represent a \$41.3 million investment.

(Contact: Kristi Kiouss 2-5290)