

Resolution 2015-07

Iowa State Association of County Supervisors Resolution

WHEREAS, the Iowa Association of County Supervisors recognizes that a high quality transportation system serves as the artery for economic activity and that the condition of the infrastructure in the State of Iowa is a key element for our future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, an integral part of the State of Iowa's Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) is the fuel tax, which has not been significantly increased since 1989, while maintenance and construction costs have more than doubled during that same timeframe; and

WHEREAS, there have been several state-wide studies completed over the past 10 years identifying the requirement to significantly increase the amount of funding for the administration, maintenance and improvements to our state-wide public roadway system, including the 2006 Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) study, the 2011 Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) study completed per 2011 Iowa Code Section 307.31, and the 2011 Governor's Transportation 2020 Citizen Advisory Commission (CAC) created by Governor Branstad; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 TIME-21 study documented the fact that under today's funding structure and highway usage, over 20% of the travel done in Iowa is by out-of-state drivers while only 13% of the state's road use revenues come from out of state drivers; and

WHEREAS, the funding provided by the implementation of the TIME-21 Fund in 2009 is inadequate to meet the critical maintenance and improvements needs for the State of Iowa's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, 95% of Road Use Tax Fund revenues are required by the Iowa Constitution to be spent only on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, due to the severe shortage in state funding to meet the critical needs of our roadway system, several Iowa counties have had to resort to issuing millions of dollars of bonds to pay for their most critical maintenance needs, which will have to be paid off through property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Governor's Transportation 2020 Citizen Advisory Council report to Governor Branstad and the Iowa Legislature identified the need for at least \$215 million per year of increased funding over the next 20 years, in addition to the funding being provided by the TIME-21 revenues, just to meet the most critical needs of our transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Good Roads Association, the Iowa County Engineer's Association, and numerous business related associations throughout Iowa have publically supported the call for increased RUTF funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors and the Clay County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages the implementation a long-term, sustainable transportation funding solution to address the critical needs of our infrastructure system.

1. Provide adequate state-wide funding to offset the projected shortfall for our most critical needs of over \$215 million annually through an increase of the motor fuel tax revenues.
2. Enable the Iowa Department of Transportation to provide primary highway funds to counties and cities in lieu of federal funds, providing increased efficiencies for state and local governments.
3. Increase the permit fee for oversize/overweight vehicles.
4. New funding should be distributed consistent with the Road Use Tax Fund distribution formula.

And, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors and the Clay County Board of Supervisors support the ongoing evaluation of creative, supplemental solutions to increased RUTF funding.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Clay County, Iowa, this 13th day of January, 2015 and the vote thereon being as follows:

Ayes: Anderson, Matthews, Skow and Swanson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

ATTEST: /s/ Marjorie A. Pitts, County Auditor
/s/ Linda Swanson, Chairperson, Clay County Board of Supervisors