

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: February 26, 2015 Weekly Council Update

Transportation Infrastructure Bill Passes: Research & Fiscal Analyst Erin Mullenix with the Iowa League of Cities provided the following report this morning:

On February 24th, the Iowa Legislature approved a 10-cent gas tax increase and the bill was signed the following day (yesterday) by Governor Branstad. The League-supported bill is estimated to provide an additional \$215 million to the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF), from which cities receive per capita distributions to pay for the construction, repair and maintenance of road infrastructure. The bill increases the gas tax rate on March 1st and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has provided an [estimate of the increases in RUTF distributions](#) cities will receive as a result. The information included below is a summary of information from the IDOT, outlining technical components and assumptions that are reflected in its estimates.

The current gas tax rate (prior to change) is 21 cents per gallon of gasoline and 22.5 cents per gallon of diesel and the RUTF also receives revenue from several vehicle registration and other related fees. The RUTF is then distributed to the state, county and city governments based on the following percentages:

- Primary road fund – 47.5 percent
- Secondary road fund – 24.5 percent
- City street fund – 20 percent
- Farm-to-market fund – 8 percent

Code of Iowa Section 312.6 states that funds received by cities from the RUTF shall be used for, “any purpose relating to the construction, maintenance and supervision of the public streets.” Cities are allowed to use the revenues on any road-related expense, including employee wages for those who perform work on the city’s streets. Additional information can be found on our [Road Use Tax page](#) (requires member log-in).

Police Department Update: On Friday, February 20, 2015, Police Chief Mike Horihan and Mike Bailey, Per Mar Security Operations Manager provided training classes to Per Mar Security Guards on directing traffic. The purpose of the training was to help with safe traffic flow in and around the Procter & Gamble plant in West Branch. Two classes were held with the guards, each lasting approximately 90 minutes.

Clerk Scholarship: The Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association has announced that Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt was awarded a scholarship from Civic Systems to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks National Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. The conference consists of general and concurrent education sessions and workshops and will be held May 17–20, 2015 at the Connecticut Convention Center. This scholarship includes up to \$1,800.00 in funds to assist with airfare, lodging, and conference registration fees.

Library Update: This Saturday is another Family Movie Night to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the children's area of the library. The title of the movie is available by contacting the library and we will again serve popcorn and refreshments. Also, the Winter Adult Reading Month ends this Saturday. Those who have turned in their records with at least two books read or listened to during February will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to Into the Woods at the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts later this spring. Lastly, the Library and Parks & Recreation will continue to have afternoon programming Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. through March with the 25th being the last afternoon program of the year. There will also be no program on the 18th during the school's spring break.

Youth Sports Registration Night: Parents can drop in anytime between 4:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday March 11th at the West Branch City Council Chamber, located at 110 N. Poplar Street to register their children for t-ball, softball and baseball for grades Pre-K through 6th grade, preschool soccer and 5th & 6th Grade Youth Sports Foundation Track & Field. Please contact Park & Rec Director Melissa Russell at (319) 930-0393 or via e-mail at melissa@westbranchiowa.org for more information.

Early Learning Center Annual Soup Supper: The West Branch Community Early Learning Center will be holding their Annual Soup Supper on Sunday March 8, 2015 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 235 South 2nd Street in West Branch. There is no cost for the supper, but donations to the Early Learning Center are accepted. This event raises money for the Center's building fund and children's programs. Please come out and support the Early Learning Center and enjoy Potato Soup, Chili and Taco Soup. For more information, please contact Assistant Director Karen Paulsen at (319) 643-7447.

Easter Egg Hunt: The West Branch Parks and Recreation Department will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. SHARP at the Hoover Elementary School Playground on Saturday April 4, 2015. Kids will receive a special visit from the Easter Bunny and parents are encouraged to bring a camera. Children will be placed in groups by four age categories: 2 and under, 3-4 year olds, 5-6 year olds, and 7-9 year olds.

Meadows Part 2 Update: The West Branch Planning & Zoning Commission has rescheduled their meeting to discuss the Meadows Part 2. The meeting will take place on Wednesday March 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Updated information can be found on the Planning & Zoning webpage at <http://westbranchiowa.org/government/planning-zoning-commission>.

Public Comment Period for Hazard Mitigation Plan: The final public comment period for the Cedar County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan will begin Monday, March 2nd and run through Monday, March 16th, 2015. The Cedar County Emergency Management Office has coordinated a press release that will run in local newspapers alerting the public of this opportunity to comment. The full plan (minus the appendices) will be available on the Box.com Website during this time (<https://amec.box.com/s/7qvrhjkhge3vmrqbulw>). In addition, hard copies will be available at public libraries. Attached to this week's update is a press release with contains additional details concerning the public comment period.

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.

Cedar County, Iowa Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Contact: Tim Malott
563-886-3355

Cedar County Planning Committee Seeks Public Input

Cedar County, IA — The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Cedar County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update before it is finalized. The plan includes an updated strategy to reduce damage and losses caused by hazard events. The final draft of the plan will be available online and in hard-copy at select public locations in Cedar County from March 2-16, 2015. The purpose is to provide information to the public on the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as well as gain public input.

Taxpayers pay billions of dollars each year for disaster recovery. Some events are predictable, and often, damages can be reduced or eliminated. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires communities to develop an approved local hazard mitigation plan to remain eligible for certain federal funding.

The Cedar County Emergency Management Coordinator, Tim Malott, invited representatives from County departments, the incorporated cities, and public school districts to work together to develop this plan update. The planning committee addressed 16 hazards—ranging from flooding and tornadoes to hazardous materials and severe winter storms—and considered the impacts of these events on local communities. Based on the results of an updated risk assessment of the hazards, committee members updated the strategies for their jurisdictions to reduce damages caused by the various hazards. The committee consulted with AMEC Foster Wheeler to assist with the plan update and ensure that the final plan meets federal regulations.

The planning committee would like input from the public on the updated strategy to lessen impacts of future disasters on people and property in Cedar County. The Plan will be sent to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IA HSEMD) and FEMA after this public comment period. Public comments will be considered by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and incorporated into the plan, as appropriate.

From, March 2-16, 2015, the final draft plan will be available for your review at the following locations:

Online at: <https://amec.box.com/s/7qvrihkhqe3vmrqbulpw>

In hard-copy during normal operating hours at: Public Libraries

The final plan must be approved by the governing body of each participating jurisdiction, IA HSEMD, and FEMA before becoming official.

For more information on this planning effort, or to provide your comments, please contact Cedar County Emergency Management at 563-886-3355 or ema@cedarcounty.org.