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Transportation Committee will hold Public Input Meetings

(Des Moines, IA) – Working in cooperation with the state’s Department of Transportation and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Office of Energy Independence will assist in examining some of the major challenges of public transportation, including:

- Transportation financing.
- Managing transportation demands.
- Connectivity between rural areas and regional activity centers.
- Avoiding or minimizing adverse environmental impacts.
- An aging population base.
- Providing personal mobility options.
- A healthy quality of life.
- Transportation needs to meet Iowa’s energy independence goals.
- Affordable transportation choices.

The development process includes an ambitious public involvement plan. The purpose is to ensure every reasonable opportunity is made available to interested citizens, politicians, special interest groups, and public officials to participate in the process.

Conducted by URS Corporation, the study will also solicit input from a variety of experts, including academics, environmentalists, energy and planning officials, business leaders, and transportation agencies.

This will be an opportunity for everyone to offer solutions and ideas, present their concerns, and discuss and debate the future of Iowa’s passenger service at several public input meetings across the state. Below is the meeting schedule:

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- Ames, Iowa
 - Quality Inn & Starlite Conference Center
 - 2601 East 13th Street
- Atlantic, Iowa
 - Cass County Community Center
 - 805 West 10th Street

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- Ottumwa, Iowa
 - Bridge View Center

- 102 Church Street
- Mason City, Iowa
 - North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG)
 - 525 6th Street SW

Thursday, April 30, 2009

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 - Hiawatha City Hall (aka Community Center)
 - 101 Emmons Street
- Cherokee, Iowa
 - Cherokee Community Center
 - 530 West Bluff Street

For more information, visit: <http://www.energy.iowa.gov>

The **Office of Energy Independence (OEI)** sets the strategic direction for Iowa's clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. The office will align state government efforts for achieving energy independence through partnerships with business and industry, community leaders, government and public agencies, and other stakeholders.

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