



Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency HIRTA Public Transit

Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren Counties

January 30, 2026

Dear County Supervisors,

The Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) is one of 35 public transit agencies in the State of Iowa. Under Iowa Code Chapter 324A, every county is required to be served by a designated public transit system. Through a 28E agreement with Story County, HIRTA is the designated provider of public transit services for the county. As such, we rely on strong local partnerships to sustain operations and ensure residents have continued access to essential transportation.

Vehicles are the foundation of any transit system, and currently more than 80% of HIRTA's fleet is past its useful life. To address this challenge, HIRTA is seeking to replace aging buses with modern, fuel-efficient Ford Transit vehicles. These vehicles will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and provide safer, more comfortable transportation for riders.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will cover 85% of the cost to purchase replacement vehicles; however, HIRTA must provide a 15% local funding match. We are respectfully requesting \$40,320 in local match funding, which will allow us to replace two aging buses, with two Ford Transits that will be used exclusively to serve Story County residents.

Each vehicle is funded through the FTA at \$114,240 with a 15% match of \$20,160 for a total of \$134,400 each.

An investment in HIRTA is an investment in safe, reliable transportation that supports access to employment, healthcare, education, and essential services, strengthening the quality of life and economic vitality of Story County.

We appreciate your continued partnership and consideration. Together, we can keep Story County moving forward for everyone who calls it home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Castillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julia" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Castillo".

Julia Castillo, CEO