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A Brief History of the  
Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee

In the simplest sense, *vertical infrastructure* means “buildings”. On Feb. 5, 1999 former Governor Thomas J. Vilsack signed Executive Order Number Three, ordering the establishment of the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Advisory Council. One of the two committees composing that council, the Iowa Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee was charged with the duty to oversee the inventory and assessment of all of the vertical infrastructure owned or under the control of the state. Also the committee was asked to make recommendations annually to the Governor regarding the use of the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure fund. This executive order was in response to the Iowa General Assembly's creation of the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund in their 1996 session, for the purpose of providing a consistent source of revenue for infrastructure improvements. More specifically, the committee was asked to undertake studies to inventory of the State's entire infrastructure, including assessments of its condition and documenting needed of improvements of all State facilities. Because the State's infrastructure is a vital asset to the State's government and the public that it serves, it is in the best long term interest of the State to ensure adequate maintenance of existing facilities—including repair, renovation, replacement, or demolition. The 1999 inventory and assessment of State facilities and subsequent analysis of facilities at state institutions, including correctional and human service facilities, identified some existing facilities that are no longer functional and have deteriorated to the point where repair is no longer economically feasible. The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee has recommended that demolition of some of these facilities should be a high priority. Duties of the committee include the ongoing development and submission to the Governor of comprehensive five-year plans of recommendations, including the committee's suggested list of priority projects. The above mentioned also includes the amount of funding necessary to complete each recommended project and a time table for completion of that project. The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee is composed of at least seven members, no more than four of whom are of the same political party. These Governor-appointed terms are staggered and for terms of no less than three years. The Governor annually designates one of the members to serve as chair.

Iowa's vertical infrastructure assets include 52.7 million sq. feet of facilities located around the State. The Vertical Infrastructure Program is a cooperative effort to repair and maintain 21% of these assets—the facilities of 12 state agencies and divisions, including:

- Department of Administrative Services
- Department of Commerce—Alcoholic Beverage Division
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Cultural Affairs
- Department of Education—Iowa Public Television
- Department of Education—Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Department of Human Services
- Iowa Workforce Development
- Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

- Department of Public Safety
- Terrace Hill (the Governor's Residence)
- Department of Veterans Affairs—Iowa Veteran's Home

Collectively, these agencies manage approximately 11.5 million square feet of facilities with an estimated replacement value of \$2 billion, including the Iowa State Capitol Complex in Des Moines, Terrace Hill, all correctional and human services facilities and the Iowa Veteran's Home. Within the Vertical Infrastructure Program there are just under 100 state owned sites, comprised of more that 950 buildings.

The following state agencies do not currently participate in the Vertical Infrastructure Program, as they have their own funding sources and code authority:

- Department for the Blind (DFB)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Department of Public Defense (DPD/National Guard)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Iowa Finance Authority
- Iowa Lottery Authority
- Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS)
- All Regent Institutions (including all state schools)

As the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee is a Governor-appointed citizens committee charged w/ assisting and prioritizing repair needs as well as offering recommendations on maintaining the State's Vertical Infrastructure assets, it operates from a strategy of defining major and routine maintenance and procedures for allocating appropriated funds. **Routine maintenance** covers day-to-day activity that prevents or delays failure of buildings, equipment, or land. (**Major maintenance** covers repair or replacement of failed or failing building components necessary to restore a facility to its intended use, prevent further damage or make it compliant with code changes.)

\*\*\*The following bullet points designate more information points in the evolving history of this advisory committee:

- A chronology of the early and gradually increasing appropriated Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee budgets
- The age and history of much of the infrastructure—and the challenges attendant
- The overwhelming need for repair, renovation, demolition vs. funds
- The continual streamlining of the application and job bidding processes
- Success stories in the brief existence of VIAC
- . . . and your suggestions