



**January 15, 2021**

**AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on January 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via video conference. President Schrader called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with Trustees Beatty-Hansen, Cain, Jeffrey, and Schainker present via video conference.

**ELECTRONIC MEETING DECLARATION:** This meeting is being held electronically because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor of Iowa's Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration which included limits on public gatherings; therefore, it is impractical to hold an in-person meeting. (§21.8(1)(c) and §21.3)

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2020 MINUTES:** Trustee Jeffrey made a motion to adopt the December 16, 2020 transit board minutes as presented and Trustee Beatty-Hansen seconded the motion. (Ayes:5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**BATTERY-ELECTRIC BUS AND CHARGING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:** Director Neal requested board approval for the purchase of two battery-electric buses and charging equipment. She reviewed the funding that was previously awarded for the project; \$1.6 million in July 2019 from a Lo-No Grant through the FTA, \$390,000 from the Iowa Volkswagen Settlement Grant in August and local funding which was increased by \$138,000 in October board meeting for total of \$173,000.

Official approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation was obtained to use an out-of-state procurement under the Virginia statewide bus contract. Director Neal explained that this allowed CyRide to work with Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to evaluate four bus manufacturers. It was determined that NOVA Bus and New Flyer were the top two original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). She stated when scored by the evaluators and according to CyRide's requirements, NOVA bus was found to be the best fit for CyRide.

Director Neal stated that specifications are finalized six months before the buses are delivered; preliminary pricing is \$842,178 per vehicle. She also explained due to Iowa's cold climate the buses are planned to have diesel auxiliary heaters to extend their range. Specific charging equipment needs are still being determined with CTE and NOVA.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1, awarding the contract to NOVA Bus in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,888,000. Awarding a contract to NOVA Bus will allow CyRide to take a major step toward more environmentally sustainable transportation within Ames.

Trustee Beatty-Hansen made a motion to adopt Alternative #1, approving the award of contract for two battery-electric buses and associated charging equipment to NOVA Bus of Plattsburgh, New York for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,888,000. Trustee Jeffrey seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

**INTERIOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL:** Director Neal requested an increase to the contract amount that was awarded to Story Construction in June for updates to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and interior improvements to the CyRide facility. The original project budget of \$129,767, including a \$16,885 contingency, funded by the unused balance of an existing 5309 grant. Director Neal explained that there are two change orders to date for the project totaling \$1,066; \$15,819 of the grant would remain unused. To fully utilize the grant, she requested that the original budgeted amount of \$129,767 be used plus additional capital improvement dollars be used to expand the project, replacing worn materials and upgrades to LED lighting. An additional \$6,513 would be needed to expand the project. To accommodate this requested CyRide reduce the shelter concrete amount in the Capital Improvement Plan to \$18,487, to fully utilize the grant and allow for needed improvements.

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1, to modify the contract with Story Construction Company.

Trustee Beatty-Hansen made a motion to Approve the requested change orders, increasing the contract amount for Story Construction Company of Ames, Iowa, by \$32,594 for an amended project total of \$136,280. Trustee Cain seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

**STATE OF IOWA VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT ROUND THREE – APPLICATION:** Director Neal requested approval to submit an application for the third and final round of grant funding from the Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust. CyRide has received \$170,640 in the first round to fund three new 40-foot buses and \$390,000 in round two to fund a portion of the battery-electric bus project.

Director Neal explained that the funding for seven 40-foot buses has been programmed in the Capital Improvement Plan through both discretionary and formula funding. The proposed request of \$500,000 would offset the local portion needed to complete the purchase.

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1, to approve submission of a VW Settlement grant. If awarded, these funds could be used to purchase new vehicles at a very low cost to the local funding partners.

Trustee Cain made a motion to approve submitting a Volkswagen Settlement grant to the Iowa DOT in the amount of \$500,000 for the purchase of seven 40-foot heavy-duty buses. Trustee Jeffrey seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

## **MONTHLY REPORT:**

**Transit Chief Safety Officer:** Kevin Gries has been named the Transit Chief Safety Officer. He has been with CyRide for 14 years and most recently was in the Operations Manager position. Kevin was actively involved in the development of the Agency Safety Plan and is a welcomed addition to the administrative team.

**Rudolph Bus:** CyRide's Shop decorated a bus as Rudolph and was entered into our fleet in December. We received many positive comments about Theodore the Turkey and Rudolph.

**Virtual Legislative Lobby Day:** Director Neal met with key representatives and senators to discuss the State's legislative priorities, including the need to restore Iowa's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) back to \$1.5 million annually. It was recently announced Governor Reynolds' Budget recommendation is to fully restore RIIF funding in FY 2022.

**Representative Feenstra:** Director Neal met with Representative Feenstra, who represents Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. They discussed the importance of public transit and our legislative priorities on the national level.

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA):** Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced an additional \$14 billion in Federal funding to support transit systems during the pandemic. CyRide will be eligible to receive an additional \$1,081,492 in one-time 5307 funding.

**Spring Meeting Dates/Times:**

- February 19, 2021 at 2:00pm
- March 19, 2021 at 2:00pm
- April 16, 2021 at 2:00pm
- May 21, 2021 at 2:00pm

**Adjourn:** Trustee Jeffrey made a motion to approve adjourning at 2:14 p.m. Trustee Cain seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

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Jacob Schrader, President

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Julie Brousard, Recording Secretary