



June 17, 2021

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on June 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via video conference. President Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with Trustees Cain, Jeffrey, Ludwig, Ríos Martínez, and Schainker present.

APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2021 MINUTES: Trustee Ludwig made a motion to adopt the May 21, 2021 transit board minutes as presented and Trustee Cain seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

INTERIOR LED SIGNS: Director Neal explained CyRide's 2020 Section 5310 grant application included funding for interior LED bus signs; Section 5310 funding is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. She advised the displays would be located at the front of the bus, visually displaying the next stop on the route to assist passengers with auditory disabilities. This technology will supplement the automatic vehicle annunciators (AVA) that are already being utilized in the buses.

Director Neal reviewed the funding for the project, stating that \$101,376 in federal funding was received and that \$25,344 in local match was needed for a project total of \$126,720. She indicated the local match was included in the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Director Neal added that Syncromatics is providing intelligent transportation systems (ITS) for all CyRide buses. The Purchasing Department was consulted regarding the single-source procurement that is being recommended with a not-to-exceed amount of \$126,720 because the LED system will integrate with the existing ITS, thereby avoiding additional costs and providing better coordination and support by utilizing one source.

Trustee Ríos Martínez inquired if other vendors were considered and if the budget would be enough to complete the project. Keith Wilbur, Transit Technology Coordinator, explained that the LED signs would be connecting directly to an existing system that already provided wiring and if another vendor was utilized, additional equipment and wiring would be needed at an additional cost. Trustee Ríos Martínez further inquired about the number of units covered by the budgeted amount. Director Neal clarified the plan is to equip 88 buses with LED signs and the board would be notified if the plan changed.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1: to install LED signs on CyRide buses, which will expand access for individuals with disabilities and help passengers better orient themselves while utilizing the system.

Trustee Ludwig made a motion to approve the single-source procurement of interior LED signs from GMV Syncromatics of Los Angeles, California, at a total not-to-exceed amount of \$126,720. Trustee Schainker seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

APC AND INDEPENDENT EVALUATION AWARDS: Director Neal reviewed the funding for the automatic passenger counters (APCs). She stated the COVID-19 Research Grant was awarded to cover 90% of the cost of 74 units of the large bus fleet with an award of \$458,715 and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (IDDC) Grant was awarded to fund 75% of the cost of 4 units of the large bus fleet with an award of \$25,383. Director Neal explained the COVID-19 Research Grant requires an independent project evaluation and the IDDC grant requires a completion date of September. An independent evaluation would not be able to be completed by that time, requiring the independent evaluation for the 4 APCs to be funded with local dollars to meet the IDDC deadline. Trustee Cain requested clarification on what was funded with local dollars. Director Neal clarified the project share for each grant and the independent evaluation for 4 APCs would be funded with local dollars, for a project total of \$58,664 in local funds, which were included in the FY 2021 CIP.

Director Neal further explained the research grant identified GMV Syncromatics and Nelson Nygaard as the two project partners, with GMV Syncromatics identified as the APC hardware supplier and manager of the project installation. Live capacity information via APCs is currently provided by Syncromatics on 14 vehicles and is displayed on internal reporting and the MyRide and MyState applications. Director Neal explained that due to the integration required between the automatic vehicle locator (AVL) and APC hardware and software, GMV Syncromatics is the only feasible partner for the project. The Purchasing Department was consulted regarding the single-source procurement and agreed with the recommendation.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1: to deploy automatic passenger counter units and hardware, project management and the independent evaluation of the project.

Trustee Ludwig made a motion to approve the single-source procurement of 78 automatic passenger counter units and their associated hardware, as well as project management, to GMV Syncromatics of Los Angeles, California in the amount of \$484,098 and approve the single-source procurement of an independent evaluation of the project to Nelson Nygaard of Seattle, Washington for \$43,602, for a total project cost of \$527,701, subject to concurrence from the Federal Transit Administration. Trustee Cain seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORT:

ISU Off-Campus Behavior Collaboration Campaigns: Due to the success of the Cyclones Care campaign, CyRide was invited to be part of a multi-disciplinary team with the City of Ames and Iowa State University to focus on incoming college students. CyRide will be helping distribute information about bus services and Moonlight Express in the “Party Like a Cyclone” and “Good Neighbor” campaigns.

Battery-Electric Bus Exterior Design: CyRide will be working with a design firm to develop a unique paint layout for the battery-electric buses that are scheduled to be delivered in the summer of 2022 and in the future. The project will be funded with existing budgeted dollars and will follow a format like the hybrid bus project using community engagement to help select the design. President Jeffrey inquired if

advertising spaces would be available on these buses through Houck Advertising. Director Neal indicated the goal is to have a “CyRide look” to maintain a unified fleet.

Federal 2021 Triennial Review Close Out: Every three years the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducts a review called the “Triennial Review”. CyRide worked on the review for the past 16 months, with the formal review being completed on April 12th. Due to the pandemic, it was the first time it was held virtually. The review produced zero deficiencies; less than 1% of reviews result in zero deficiencies.

Summer and Fall Meeting Dates/Times:

- August 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- September 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- October 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- November 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- December 8, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Zero Emissions Initiative: President Biden has released a plan that has a goal of zero emissions by 2050. Transit Planner, Shari Atwood, explained that the FTA is asking agencies to sign a level of commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions either through a facility rehabilitation or purchase zero emissions buses by the end of July. President Biden has requested half of the nation’s fleet be changed to zero emissions by 2030 and the entire nation’s fleets be changed to zero emissions by 2050. She said she doesn’t believe that is a feasible plan for CyRide, but some level of commitment does need to be made or it could affect future federal grant opportunities. Under the current funding, it is believed one bus could be replaced each year with a zero emissions vehicle via Surface Transportation Program funding. Director Neal said that because this plan was only announced yesterday (June 16, 2021), she would like to obtain additional details about the plan and allow the board to weigh in on what CyRide is committing to. A short board meeting may be scheduled for July, if necessary. Trustee Cain asked if it was only focused on Transit. Shari Atwood explained the announcement was from the FTA regarding transit facilities and their fleets; impact to other sectors is unknown at this time.

Adjourn: Trustee Cain made a motion to approve adjourning at 3:26 p.m. Trustee Ludwig seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: None) Motion carried.

Liz Jeffrey, President

Julie Brousard, Recording Secretary