



June 15, 2023

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on June 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Beatty-Hansen called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. with Trustees Janes, Lee, Norton, and Schainker present.

APPROVAL OF MAY 18, 2023, MINUTES:

Trustee Schainker made a motion to adopt the May 18, 2023, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Janes seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

Award of Contract for FY 2024 Fuel Purchases:

Director Neal informed the board that the fuel contract with REG will end on June 30, 2023. CyRide worked with Purchasing to put out a bid and received one bid on fuel from REG. The other two prospective bidders were contacted and stated that timing was an issue, so they did not respond. The bid received from REG represented a markup over the market rate.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1 to reject all bids and direct staff to re-issue the fuel bid. Assistant Director of Fleet and Facilities James Rendall would work with Purchasing to purchase fuel once the contract expires and prepare a new fuel bid request. Rejecting the bid could result in a higher cost if REG doesn't submit a bid or if their bid and other bid responses are higher than this current bid. However, approving the bid would lock us into purchasing fuel that, on average, would be more expensive than fuel purchased without a contract off the market.

Discussion held among board members and staff. Trustee Janes asked how soon the next fuel bid would be released and for how long. Assistant Director Rendall said he would work with Purchasing to release it quickly and keep it out longer.

Trustee Norton made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Schainker seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Award of Contract for Low-Floor Cutaway Bus Purchase:

Director Neal requested the board approve an award of contract for the purchase of three low-floor cutaway buses. Two of these buses would be used by CyRide, and one would be leased to HIRTA, our Dial-A-Ride contractor. In January, CyRide was informed that the IDOT worked with vendors to establish new pricing and execute new agreements at a substantial price increase. The IDOT also increased state funding levels for these buses to help address the funding shortfall. At the February board meeting, the board approved accepting the updated funding levels to purchase these vehicles and increasing the local match needed in addition to what was approved in the FY 22 and 23 CIP. Due to the additional funding made available by the IDOT, the three buses would be 85% state and federally funded.

CyRide has identified New England Wheels' Frontrunner as the best available vehicle for the low-floor cutaway design based on several criteria, including better accessibility, fewer maintenance issues, and better overall fuel economy. Hogle Bus Company, the New England Wheels supplier, has provided pricing of \$202,975 per CyRide bus and \$198,243 for the HIRTA vehicle.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1 to approve purchasing the three low-floor cutaway buses from Hogle Bus Company, which will allow CyRide to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life and improve accessibility on both CyRide's fixed routes and Dial-A-Ride services.

Trustee Janes made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Schainker seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORT:

ROADEO and Professional Driver of the Year: The annual CyRide ROADEO was held on June 3. Paul Klimesh, Charles Long, Brian Grootveld, Adam Wiederholt, and Aidan Boyer were our top five finishers. At the state level, Charles placed 1st in the Small Bus competition, and Brian placed 2nd in the Large Bus competition. Natasha Harsh was recognized as our Professional Driver of the Year.

CTAA Conference Update: Charles participated in the Small Bus competition at the national level. Barb and Chris attended the conference and received excellent information about battery electric bus deployments.

TSI Conference Update: Kevin attended training covering administering transit safety and security audits.

Annual IPTA Conference: Barb, Shari, Chris, and Kevin attended the annual IPTA Conference. Kevin presented information on third-party testing. CyRide was awarded the Large Urban Transit System of the Year by the Iowa DOT.

BEB Update/Training/Deployment: NOVA personnel were on site to train mechanics, instructors, and fire personnel about the battery electric buses.

Spring meeting dates:

- July 20, 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Trustee Norton made a motion to approve adjourning at 4:20 p.m.; Trustee Janes seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, President

Cheryl Spencer, Recording Secretary