



OCTOBER 19, 2023
AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on October 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Beatty-Hansen called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m. with Trustees Clark, Janes, and Lee present.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, MINUTES:

Trustee Janes made a motion to adopt the September 21, 2023, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Lee seconded the motion. (Ayes: 4 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SUPPORT VEHICLE PURCHASE:

Director Neal requested board approval of award of contract for two support vehicles. Due to supply chain disruptions, replacing these vehicles was delayed, and CyRide has two vehicles that are over eight years old. Funding for the vehicles was included in the Capital Improvements Plan. Invitation to Bid #2024-048 was released on September 18, 2023, and due on October 5, 2023. Deery Brothers of Ames submitted a responsive bid for two Dodge Hornets, plug-in hybrid crossover utility vehicles. The price for each vehicle is \$43,025 for a total cost of \$86,050.

Director Neal recommended that the board approve Alternative #1 for award of contract to Deery Brothers of Ames, of Ames, Iowa, for a total cost of \$86,050, which will allow CyRide to replace two vehicles beyond their useful life with new, more energy-efficient crossovers that offer improved overall fuel economy and reduced emissions.

Trustee Lee asked if it was common to have that limited number of bids or if it represented availability on the market. Assistant Director of Fleet and Facilities Rendall answered that it is possibly a representation of that, and one company that normally bids said they didn't because the lead time is so long. Rendall also said there are fewer hybrid options on the market right now as well. Trustee Jian asked if these vehicles were replacing hybrids, and Rendall answered that they were replacing non-hybrid vehicles. Trustee Clark inquired about what would happen with the vehicles being replaced. Rendall responded that they would be put up for auction.

Trustee Janes made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Clark seconded the motion. (Ayes: 4 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

BIODISEL B100 PILOT PROJECT:

Director Neal requested board approval to move forward with a B100 pilot project, which would equip five 40' heavy-duty buses to run on 100% biodiesel (B100) year-round. During the March 2023 board meeting, Chevron Renewable Energy Group (REG) presented information about this project to the board. The board requested CyRide finalize project details and bring back a proposal. Due to new members being appointed to the board since the original presentation, CyRide felt it would be best for Chevron REG to present the project again and be available to answer questions. John Plant and Adam Sander from Chevron REG presented information to the board about the project and how it would work. The total project capital expenditures cost is \$135,912, Chevron REG's contribution is \$53,274, and CyRide's balance is \$82,638. Operating costs are estimated to be \$31,934 over the two-year project, which brings the estimated cost to \$114,572. Staff recommended that \$82,638 be funded from the Operations Fund closing balance and \$31,934 out of the operating budget.

Director Neal recommended that the board approve Alternative #1 to approve the Biodiesel B100 pilot project. The approval is in two parts. Part A is awarding a biodiesel contract to Chevron REG of Ames, Iowa, for the purchase of biodiesel at a cost of 10% above the price of #2 diesel, plus the fuel tank rental, as presented. Part B is approving the waiving of purchasing policies for the purchase of the Vector System SMARTFuel management system, training, and installation services from Optimus Technologies of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a price of \$82,638.

Trustee Janes asked if using regular diesel would negatively impact the system. John Plant with Chevron answered it would not, but you would lose the carbon reduction. Trustee Janes inquired if the price of the tank would change if CyRide wanted to expand the tank after the pilot. Rendall clarified that CyRide would work on negotiating pricing if that were to happen. Trustee Janes asked if we have space for the tank since facility space has been a concern. Rendall answered yes, we have space, and a spot has been identified in the fueling lane for where to place the tank. Trustee Janes inquired if we have concerns with supply chain issues for biodiesel. John Plant and Adam Sander answered that they anticipated supply would be available. Chevron REG has positioned itself as a front-runner with feedstock suppliers and has a network of biodiesel plants. Trustee Clark asked about the maintenance required for these systems. John Plant answered that the primary maintenance item is the replacement of filters, and there are sensors in the system that will notify the maintenance department and Optimus about issues. Trustee Lee asked how two years was determined to be the length of time for the project. John Plant answered that Chevron REG believes it will take less time for CyRide and the board to be confident in the project, but two years were provided for proof of concept and to build a comfort level on the price of biodiesel. Trustee Lee also asked what the criteria were for picking the five buses. Rendall answered CyRide selected mid-life buses approximately seven to eight years old. He also pointed out that CyRide will keep the equipment as part of the project.

Trustee Lee made a motion to approve Alternative #1 Part A; Trustee Clark seconded the motion. (Ayes: 4 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Trustee Janes made a motion to approve Alternative #1 Part B; Trustee Lee seconded the motion. (Ayes: 4 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORT:

Free Rides Election Day: CyRide will offer fare-free rides on Election Day. These will be available on both fixed route and Dial-A-Ride services on November 7.

APTA Expo: Members of CyRide attended the 2023 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Expo in Orlando, FL. The Expo provided the opportunity to see new technology, vehicles, and products for transit. Employees also had the opportunity to meet with vendors.

Fall meeting dates:

- November 16, 4:00 p.m.
- December 21, 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Trustee Lee made a motion to approve adjourning at 4:38 p.m.; Trustee Janes seconded the motion. (Ayes: 4 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, President

Cheryl Spencer, Recording Secretary