



Transit Board Meeting
AGENDA

**AMES TRANSIT AGENCY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CYRIDE CONFERENCE ROOM – March 19, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 p.m.
2. Public Comments
3. FY 2024 Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant Application
4. Spring Meeting Dates / Times
 - April 18
 - May 16
5. Adjourn



March 19, 2024
FY 2024 Bus & Bus Facilities
Discretionary Grant Application
CyRide Resource: Shari Atwood, James Rendall

BACKGROUND:

On February 8, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for two competitive federal programs supporting the financing of transit capital projects, with a total of \$1.5 billion being made available. The two sources of funding are:

- **Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (5339(b))** supports the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects with up to **\$390 million** in funding.
- **Low-or No-Emission Program (5339(c))** supports zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, as well as facility construction to support these vehicles, with **\$1.1 billion** available.

To help demonstrate the competitiveness of the Buses and Bus Facilities Program, the FTA received 265 Bus & Buses Facilities applications requesting \$4.5 billion in FY 2023, which was significantly more than the approximately \$473 million available that year. Only 47 projects, or 10% of projects submitted, were awarded.

The FTA is allowing submissions for both programs within the same application if eligible. Unfortunately, CyRide is not eligible under the Low-No Program as its construction project has various elements that do not support the direct deployment of low-emissions buses, such as office expansion. Program applications are due April 25, 2024, with award announcements expected by mid-July 2024.

CyRide is proposing a Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary grant request for an amount not to exceed \$16,635,103 total (\$13,368,083 federal and \$3,267,020 local) for a facility construction expansion to the bus storage, maintenance, and administrative areas. The bus storage and maintenance improvements would allow CyRide to park all 95 buses inside and electrify this space for future battery electric bus (BEB) and relief vehicle purchases. The administrative expansions would add a training wing and conference room to accommodate larger meetings and expand the employee breakroom to reflect the increased number of employees since the building was originally constructed.

CyRide plans to request the following as part of the grant submission (see map with expansion areas highlighted):

1. Bus Storage Expansion

- a. Four and a half storage lanes for 17 more buses to park inside
- b. Small garage door parking for ten vehicles total, with direct outside access
- c. Improve vehicle navigation entrance into the building via Door 8
- d. Perimeter property parking to replace spots removed due to bus storage expansion
- e. Covered parking with solar panels added to the west parking area
- f. Depot charging station and dispensers for up to six BEBs
- g. Fire suppression system to protect the facility in the event of a BEB fire

2. Maintenance Expansion

- a. Paint booth to accommodate 60' articulated buses
- b. Body bay to maintain 60' articulated buses

3. Administrative

- a. Second Floor Expansions
 - i. Conference room constructed east of the employee stairs above the current breakroom
 - ii. Training wing added west of conference room constructed on the second level, allowing operations managers to have dedicated workspaces on the first floor for confidential conversations while maintaining visibility over operations
Offices (6); Flex workspace (1); Bathrooms (2); Training Conf. Room (1)
- b. First Floor Expansion
 - i. Employee breakroom expanded to cover the existing outdoor patio, which would approximately double the current breakroom size

4. A&E Final Engineering: This will allow for the completion of final design documents to put the project out for bid and ensure that the project can be completed according to the plan specifications.

5. Workforce Development: The Bus & Bus Facilities program requires that CyRide place 5% of the overall grant request for low-emission related areas into workforce development, which is \$333,202, or certify that this training is not required. CyRide believes that it can create some workforce apprenticeship programs for this requirement in the maintenance division. Again, this is a congressionally mandated requirement for the Bus & Bus Facilities and the Low-No Emission Programs.

The estimated budget below is a not-to-exceed amount and not a final budget. We anticipate these amounts will change over the next month.

Category	Federal	Federal	Local	Total
Site Preparation	80%	\$1,648,579	\$412,145	\$2,060,724
Construction - Bus Storage	80%	\$4,584,666	\$1,146,166	\$5,730,832
Construction - RV Storage	80%	\$756,398	\$189,099	\$945,497
Construction - Vehicle Maintenance	80%	\$1,070,442	\$267,610	\$1,338,052
Construction - Training Wing & East Conference Room	80%	\$2,871,188	\$717,797	\$3,588,985
Construction - Break Room	80%	\$661,064	\$165,266	\$826,330
Misc. Equipment - Furniture	80%	\$181,354	\$45,339	\$226,693
Architectural & Engineering (A&E)	80%	\$787,831	\$196,958	\$984,789
Depot Chargers and Dispensers	90%	\$540,000	\$60,000	\$600,000
Workforce Development (5% of low-emission areas of the award)	80%	\$266,561	\$66,640	\$333,201
Total		\$13,368,083	\$3,267,020	\$16,635,103

If a grant application request is approved by the board, CyRide will begin to request letters of support for the overall expansion project. In April, CyRide will present to the board a final budget to submit within the application. Additionally, CyRide is working through requirements for payback to the FTA due to modifying and reconstructing areas of the facility and parking lot with useful life. CyRide will also seek clarification from the FTA and the on-call A&E firm regarding budget contingency amounts.

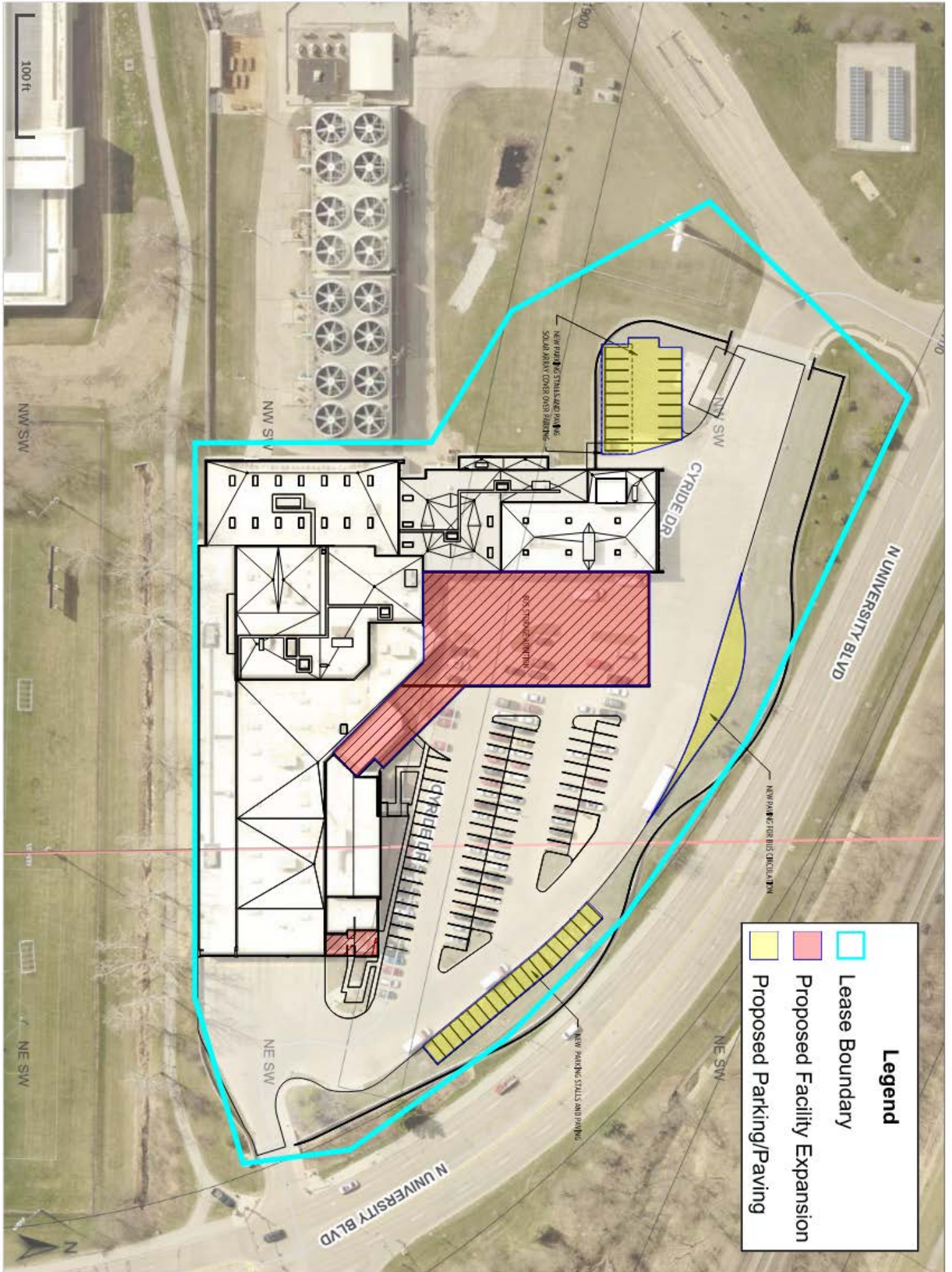
To provide the estimated \$3,267,020 amount in local match needed, CyRide would utilize a portion of the reserved \$3,715,166 for the facility expansion project already identified within the FY 2024 capital budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve submission of an FY 2024 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary grant application for a facility construction project, committing up to **\$3,267,020** in local match for the grant.
2. Approve submission of an FY 2024 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary grant application, modified to reflect Transit Board priorities.
3. Do not submit an FY 2024 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1. Applying for this grant would allow CyRide to expand its facility to address vehicle storage, maintenance, and administrative needs. If awarded, this facility expansion will enable CyRide to prepare for a future battery electric bus fleet expansion and continue its path toward a more sustainable and cleaner bus fleet.



Legend	
	Lease Boundary
	Proposed Facility Expansion
	Proposed Parking/Paving