

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

September 7, 2007

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met September 7, 2007, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall Conference Room 233. President Goodman called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Trustees in attendance: Madden, Anders, Ayers, and Hynak. Arriving later: Trustee Schainker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the August 24, 2007 and September 7, 2007 Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees meeting will be approved at the October 12, 2007 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

USED BUSES FROM IOWA CITY: Director Kyras explained that this special meeting was called to discuss an opportunity for CyRide to purchase additional buses from Iowa City in light of operational issues that were being experienced due to unanticipated ridership growth. The opportunity to purchase these buses would no longer exist after the current week.

It was explained that during CyRide maintenance staff's visit to Iowa City to evaluate their new Gillig buses they just received, Iowa City staff had mentioned the availability of six 1989 Orion V buses that they would be selling that next week. These buses are compatible with buses in CyRide's current fleet. Rich Leners and Chad Krull, CyRide maintenance staff, inspected the used buses and felt the buses would be a good addition to CyRide's fleet as these buses were in good condition for their age, had air conditioning, were equipped with wheelchair lifts, and four of the six buses could be placed in service quickly easing problems currently being experienced in having enough spare buses for unexpected operational issues and vehicle maintenance.

This spare bus shortage was created overnight as ridership increased by over 12% largely due to higher enrollment at ISU this fall as well as continued high gas prices. This situation will be compounded even further as CyRide ridership increases when cold weather arrives. This is typically a time when walkers and bicyclists begin to ride the bus. CyRide has 51 active buses and is currently pulling out 48 for service compared to last year when the operations division was pulling out 44 buses. Last year, this left seven buses for breakdowns or accidents as opposed to three this year. The purchase of six used buses would provide CyRide with additional buses for backup and for additional service. CyRide contracts with CIT for the operation of a several CyRide trips to relieve overcrowding; however, their service delivery has not been as reliable this year. Director Kyras further explained that she would like to examine increasing the number of trips provided by CIT when the seasonal ridership increase occurs in January. This would give CIT time to gear up for the additional service and would give staff time to ensure their service reliability. The board was then requested to approval the purchase of used, Iowa City buses for the CyRide fleet.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt Alternative #1 to purchase the six 1989 Orion buses for expansion of the fleet for a total cost of \$10,000. Motion seconded by Trustee Ayers. (Motion carried unanimously.)

PURCHASE THREE NEW BUSES (GILLIG): Director Kyras told the transit board that CyRide staff is working on the purchase of three (3) 40 ft Gillig buses as opposed to exercising its bid option for DaimlerChrysler buses (formerly Orion Bus Industries). She further explained that the original reason for CyRide's maintenance staff to travel to Iowa City was to inspect new Gillig buses just received by the transit system. CyRide is considering this change as the bus manufacturing industry has changed rapidly since the last bus order where these options were bid. First, there are significant delays in receiving parts from DaimlerChrysler for repair work. Second, the DaimlerChrysler bus has been redesigned and will require an expansion of CyRide's current parts inventory. Third, DaimlerChrysler will not provide the transmission requested by CyRide personnel that is present on other Orion buses. On the other hand, Gillig has corrected its past problem of severe frame corrosion by switching to a stainless steel chassis. Another positive benefit of purchasing from Gillig is the shorter delivery schedule with buses onsite by August 2008 - before the start of the ISU fall semester if the award is made within the next few days. DaimlerChrysler buses would not arrive until October 2008. The price for the three Gillig buses would be \$972,000, \$324,000 each, with federal and state grants funding \$806,760 of the \$972,000.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt Alternative 1 to award contract to Gillig Corp. for three (3) – 40' Heavy Duty Gillig Low floor transit buses for a total price not to exceed \$972,000. Trustee Anders seconded the motion. (Motion carried unanimously.)

SET TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Next transit board meeting was scheduled for October 12 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 135.

The November transit board meeting was scheduled for November 5 at 4:15 p.m. Notification of the meeting location will be announced at the October 12 meeting.

ADJOURN: Trustee Madden made a motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Anders. (Motion carried unanimously.)