

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

March 28, 2008

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on March 28, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall Conference Room 135. President Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:14 a.m. Trustees in attendance: Anders, Madden, Holleman and Schainker via telephone. Absent: Trustee Ayers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Trustee Anders made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20 2008 Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Madden seconded. (Motion carried unanimously).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

POWER FUND GRANT – PRE-APPLICATION: Director Kyras explained at the February transit board meeting, it was the consensus of the board members to prepare a pre-application for the Power Fund Grant to aid in funding a trial of a city-wide fare free bus system. The timeframe for the project is three years to begin in 2009 following bus delivery.

The three activities within the grant are marketing activities, bus procurement and project implementation. The four goals would be: to reduce the City of Ames carbon footprint by 2,634 tons annually, to increase ridership by a one million rides, to increase work trips by bus from 6 to 9%, and to educate the public on their contribution to this footprint reduction through public transit usage.

Trustee Madden raised the concern regarding long-term funding of the fare free program. His concern related to who and how the additional cost would be funded. Trustee Goodman indicated that he considered this an experiment to see how it worked. If it was successful, discussions would need to occur about long-term funding of it. If it did not, then the program would be discontinued.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the Power Fund pre-application for \$3,935,955 to the Office of Energy Independence by the April 1, 2008 deadline. Motion seconded by Trustee Anders. (Motion carried unanimously.)

STATE GRANT APPLICATION: Shari Atwood, Transit Planner, informed the transit board that this year's state grant application was an annual submission to the Iowa DOT requesting operating and capital assistance. The State Transit Assistance (STA) operating funding is estimated at \$470,733. In addition, Discretionary Earmark funding (\$4,092,188) is being requested for thirteen buses with cameras, three minibuses with cameras, scissor lift, and facility cameras/proximity card access to secure the remainder of CyRide's facility. The Elderly and Disabled Special Needs (5310) funding of \$162,719 is being requested to support CyRide's subcontracted ADA Dial-A-Ride service and annual bus stop improvements. The Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) requests of \$163,055 are for continuation of the Mid-Day South Duff and Brown Route service frequency improvements. A new JARC request will be for new service to the E. 13th/Dayton/Lincoln Way area. Director Kyras further explained that this new route would operate out of City Hall to Lincoln Way to Dayton to E. 13th. Upon request the route would deviate to medical

facilities per requests from the human service agencies or the CIT facility where the intercity carriers are located. New Freedom funding would request partial funding (\$100,000) for two large buses to transport individuals on the new JARC E.13th/Dayton/Lincoln Way service.

A final request would be for State Infrastructure Grant (IG) funding of \$512,000 for rehabilitation of the Steam Cleaning Area within the maintenance facility. This area has substantial settlement issues creating cracks in the floor and walls along with a non-functional in-ground hoist that needs removed.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the FY2009 State Grant application subject to public hearing comments. Seconded by Trustee Holleman. (Motion carried unanimously.)

FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION: Shari Atwood, Transit Planner, explained that a majority of CyRide's federal formula funding (Section 5307 funds) are based solely on population and population density of an Urbanized Area (UZA). However, the Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) funding for transit systems, with highly efficient services, is rated on six performance categories with CyRide typically receiving five out of the six. This year CyRide lost one criteria due to a drop in ridership in FY2006. CyRide expects to gain the STIC funding back next year as ridership has increased dramatically allowing for the fifth criteria to be returned. Transit Systems receive \$125,362 for each criteria achieved.

CyRide will be requesting \$1,328,822 in Section 5307/STIC Operating Assistance. CyRide is requesting a 100% of these funds as operating dollars; however, approximately 20% of local funding will need to be allocated to purchase capital items.

Trustee Madden made a motion to authorize the Transit Director to execute and file a federal grant application in the amount of \$1,328,822 to the Federal Transit Administration. Seconded by Trustee Holleman. (Motion carried unanimously.)

VEISHEA UPDATE: Barbara Neal, Operation's Supervisor explained CyRide drivers were confronted with the challenge of collecting fares and controlling the large number of riders at the end of the regular service and the beginning of MLX. CyRide staff is requesting the board to change CyRide's fare policy to allow free fares from 8:00 – 10:30 p.m. on April 12, 2008.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt the temporarily change of CyRide's fare policy to allow free fares from 8:00 – 10:30 p.m. on April 12, 2008 and operate shuttle service to 3:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday night. Motion seconded by Trustee Anders. (Motion carried unanimously.)

SET TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Next transit board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at CyRide's Office.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m.