

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

December 14, 2009

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on December 14, 2009 at 2:15 p.m. in the conference room at CyRide. President Anders called the transit board meeting to order at 2:16 p.m. Trustees in attendance were Popken; Trustees attending via conference call: Madden, Pinegar, and Heilman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Trustee Popken made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2009 transit board meeting and seconded by Trustee Madden. (Three ayes; zero nays; motion carried unanimously).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

TRANSIT FACILITY – WEST WALL RECONSTRUCTION: Director Kyras told the transit board Global FM has been talking with CyRide the past two years about the insurance risk assessment. Global FM insurance company proposed modifications to the west wall to reduce the possible risk of fire. The wall currently carries a higher fire safety hazard because the proximity is close to the ISU cooling towers. The insurance company suggested replacing the wall with fire-rated siding and relocating inlet vents and a couple of skylights in this area.

CyRide requested State Infrastructure grant funds to cover 80% of this construction. The budget for this project is \$200,000 with 80% of this to be state funding for \$160,000 and leaves \$40,000 to local match, which was budgeted into the capital budget for 2010. To move forward with this project in a timely manner, CyRide staff is asking the transit board to approve this request to receive bids, award the bid, and have City Council award contract in January. The reconstruction period of the west wall would begin in February.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the bidding process of CyRide's West Wall. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Three ayes; zero nays; motion carried unanimously).

BUS PURCHASE UPDATE: CyRide received \$4 million federal stimulus and earmark funding to purchase 13 diesel buses and 2 hybrid buses the transit board approved in March and May of 2009. Since that time, additional funding has become available, bus pricing changed so previous purchase orders will be cancelled, and one new purchase order will replace the previous purchase orders.

CyRide received \$1.6 million funding under the TIGGER federal program to upgrade buses and modify the purchase of ten vehicles from diesel to hybrid at 100% federal share.

Engine modifications, reflecting the 2010 emission standards requirements, have been put in place for buses delivered after September 2010. Nine vehicles to be manufactured in July will have the 2009 engine standards and the lower bus price; six buses do not. The original order indicated the 2010 higher price;

therefore, a savings resulted from this purchase. The cost for the final modifications is \$27,179 and the original quote was \$19,875 with the delivery of the later buses a higher cost that expected.

New purchase order to Gillig Corporation that reflects the hybrid upgrade and the engine cost for \$7,206,096 will replace the original purchase order amount of \$5,776,000. This results in a local cost of \$7,450 as additional cost in federal dollars will cover the other cost.

Trustee Popken made a motion to approve a contract change to Gillig Corporation for \$1,430,096 resulting in a new contract amount of \$7,206,096. Trustee Madden seconded motion. (Three ayes; zero nays; motion carried unanimously).

Director Kyras informed the transit board CyRide hired a marketing firm to alter the exterior look of the twelve hybrid buses to make them recognizable as CyRide buses and noticeable as hybrid buses. Designs will be placed on the website for viewing and ask the transit board to share with CyRide staff if you have thoughts or additional ideas for design of the buses. When the students return from the semester break, CyRide staff will ask students and public to vote on the design.

Trustee Schainker joined the discussion via audio conference at 2:30 P.M.

SATELLITE FACILITY: Director Kyras recapped the progression on the satellite facility process. The consideration was CyRide could expand at the existing site using the 4.5 acres available and could accommodate CyRide needs for the next ten years for a cost of approximately \$10 million; however, CyRide would be back to the same situation with being out of room to house the fleet.

From the study, a site for the satellite location has now been identified. There are three parcels of land located south of Hwy 30 and west of State Street. The parcels are owned by Iowa State University, Committee for Agricultural Development, and Iowa State University Press. There are a total of 28 acres available at this site with CyRide needing approximately 17 acres for potential CyRide use.

CyRide staff met with City Planning and Public Works Departments to see if there were any fatal clauses CyRide should be aware of with this area and parcels of land. Upon the final review, there were no obstacles or roadblocks with these parcels of land, but there are matters that need to be addressed if CyRide moves forward with the purchase of this property. They were:

- Land Use Policy Plan Changes: The parcel is zoned and was recently changed to residential for Iowa State University if they chose to sell the land. This could be changed to the previous zoning Government/Airport District.

- Adjacent Zoning Parcels: Consideration would be given to the impact on residents who live and occupy the east side of State Street and is zoned R-1 from the four parcels across State Street that is under consideration.
- Annexation: Land is not in City limits and State Street is not in the best of condition for bus traffic, however the street is owned by the City and is in the CIP, Capital Improvement Plan, for improvement within the next 3 – 4 years. The City suggested a traffic study be completed to see what the added bus traffic at State and Mortensen intersection would do the traffic congestion at this site.
- Utilities: The good news was the main sanitary line is on the north end of the parcel and the City Planning and Public Works did a quick analysis and estimated the cost to connect to the building site would be approximately \$150,000. Actually must better than what was anticipated.

Following the positive review with the City, availability of land for sale, proximity of land to Campus, and the immediate need for bus storage, CyRide is ready to move forward. CyRide staff recommendation would be to hire an Architectural and Engineering firm for the conceptually design to meet CyRide needs and to locate the best 12 – 15 acres for the satellite facility. Look at which parcels of land, develop a concept for the building in parts and pieces, as well as looking at traffic. The estimated cost to complete this study is about \$35,000 and staff recommendation is to move forward with this study, not to exceed \$35,000; local match would be \$7,000 and can be found in the CyRide budget. CyRide currently has funding of \$1.7 million for facility improvements and this funding needs to be obligated by September 2010 timeframe. CyRide also received notification from Congressman Latham that CyRide will receive an additional \$750,000 funding through the transportation bill for facility expansion. This is \$2.75 million potential earmarks and \$4 million to begin planning what the growth for CyRide is going to accommodate and moving forward with whatever makes sense. CyRide staff would come back with the findings January 15 and let you know what the cost would be.

Trustee Schainker asked if an Engineering Study had been completed to study the condition of the road and intersection at State Street and Mortensen with the added bus traffic to see if it needs to be upgraded.

Because of previous issues, regarding streets in the Middle School area, Trustee Madden requested as this process moves along, the University would like an understanding of what expectations or obligations the University contributions would be expected to support for maintaining these roads such as stoplights. If there were to be any street contribution, the University would like to know before the transaction is finalized. The Board of Regents still have to approve this transaction and it has not been brought before them.

Trustee Schainker mentioned the City has paid millions to refurbish roads and does not want to get into refurbishing road construction because of damage created by CyRide buses. The City will be facing difficult budgets in the future

and what is currently in the Capital Improvement Plan may not stay in future CIP plans. Trustee Schainker it is important that we know what all of this is going to cost of rebuilding roads in the area and will all be subject to City Council approval before proceeding with purchasing this property. CyRide will also need to coordinate meetings with residents/neighbors on State Street to minimize residential concerns with the possibility of locating CyRide across the street.

Director Kyras pointed out this would be part of the study completed by the consultants to look at the additional bus traffic to see what impact this would have in this area.

Trustee Schainker asked if there were any buildings on the parcels of land that could be utilized to house the buses that were going to be stored outside in January. Director Kyras indicated with minor modifications, at least 15 – 20 vehicles could be housed in the open-air building that were going to be housed outside in January. The purpose of the study is to see what buildings would be of value to CyRide and continue from this information.

Trustee Madden mentioned the bridge over Hwy 30 was redone but the cost of the study might be low if streets need to be refurbished in the area of State Street near the parcel of land CyRide is looking to purchase.

Director Kyras mentioned this information would be obtained from the traffic engineer study on costs related to this area.

CyRide Staff looked at the contract CyRide had with Parsons Brinkerhoff for the first two phases of this project and see if CyRide needed to go out for a new Request For Qualifications. It appears it is the same scope of work, but at a different site and there is a possibility of moving forward by having this conversation and adding the additional funding to complete the project.

Following a lengthy discussion, Trustee Madden made a motion to move ahead with the recommendation to approve an architectural/engineering study for a satellite facility to house transit operations at a location on State Street, south of Hwy. 30 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 with the understanding the issues discussed during the transit board meeting are considered. Trustee Popken seconded the motion. (Three ayes; zero nays; motion carried unanimously).

Trustee Anders inquired if there was any information or update on the Intermodal Facility status. Director Kyras indicated the project was it was highly recommended and the project moved through the first cut. Now it is a wait and see until we hear from Washington,

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: The next transit board meeting to be held on Friday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the CyRide Conference Room.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Robert Anders, President

Joanne Van Dyke, Recording Secretary