

## AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

June 17, 2009

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on June 17, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. in the conference room at CyRide. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by President Anders. Trustees in attendance via conference call: Schainker, Madden, Pinegar, Popken and Heilman.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments.

**RIDE GRANT:** Director Kyras referenced the two grants, RIDE and the Federal TIGER grant, that were discussed at the June 1 transit board meeting which require board action to proceed with submission of the grants. Under the RIDE grant, CyRide staff identified two projects which were eligible to move CyRide forward in its "green" initiatives. First was the upgrade cost of two hybrid buses as opposed to diesel buses at \$204,500 per bus. The second project would increase biodiesel usage from October 2009 to July 2010, which is estimated to cost \$15,000. This project would increase CyRide's current policy of 2% biodiesel in the winter to 5% biodiesel and from 5% to 20% in the summer. The local match for this project would come from CyRide's regular fuel line item.

CyRide staff is asking the transit board to approve the Authorizing Resolution for the RIDE grant application to be submitted to the DNR by June 29, 2009, which includes the upgrade cost of two diesel buses to hybrid buses and incremental cost of increasing biodiesel.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt Alternative 1 to approve inclusion of the upgrade cost of two diesel buses to hybrid and the incremental cost of increasing biodiesel usage in a RIDE grant application to be submitted to the DNR by June 29, 2009 and the local match required for each project. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**FEDERAL TIGER GRANT:** Director Kyras reviewed the TIGER grant and explained that is grant program could potentially fund the Ames Intermodal Facility. The minimum federal funding request, \$20 million, may be granted with 100% federal (stimulus) funding.

At the June 1 transit board meeting, the transit board agreed to apply for the grant. After further discussion at this meeting, the transit board addressed funding the \$100,000 planning study through a three way partnership, the City, University and CyRide, each funding 1/3 of the financial support for this study. The City Council approved funding \$33,000 for the Intermodal Planning study at its June 9, 2009 City Council meeting and the transit board needs to formally approve funding \$34,000 for the Intermodal Facility study.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve up to \$34,000 from the 2008-2009 budget to fund 1/3 of the Intermodal Facility planning study. Motion was seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

President Anders inquired about consultant(s) for this project. Director Kyras described the process that was currently under way to locally and with a consultant. She indicated that a committee of ISU, City and CyRide staff had been developed and were in the process of interviewing consultants. Ultimately, the consultant will be hired by ISU to expeditiously develop the information needed by the September grant deadline. To date, the committee had interviewed two firms, Rick Nau with URS and Ted Rieck with TransSystems. The committee was impressed with Ted Rieck from TransSystems and his enthusiasm for the project. However, Director Kyras found out the next day he was laid off from his firm. Due to this event, the committee is working through the possibilities to ensure the best fit for this project.

President Anders discussed his belief that the Intermodal Facility should be a true transit hub for the City of Ames and a transfer location for a number of major CyRide routes. Trustee Madden was not sure where the best location for the transit hub should be, but one of the university interests is in improving campustown. Director Kyras pointed out the biggest discussion with the committee so far is the site selection and will have public input.

Trustee Madden noted the consultant chosen needs to have good communication skills and technical skills to interact with the public and principal contractor.

**SET TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** Future transit board meetings scheduled are: July 29 at 8:00 a.m. in the CyRide Conference Room.

**ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 7:45 a.m.