

## AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

July 29, 2009

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on July 29, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room at CyRide. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Anders. Trustees in attendance: Anders, Schainker, Madden, Heilman and Popken. Absent: Trustee Pinnegar. Public in Attendance: Brent Schipper and Patrick with ASK Studio.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Trustee Schainker made a motion and seconded by Trustee Madden to adopt the minutes as presented from June 1 and June 17, 2009 meetings. (Motion carried unanimously).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments.

**CYRIDE PRESENTATION:** CyRide received the Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) status for its 2008 office addition. The project Architect, Brent Schipper, indicate that an organization must adopt a sustainable green building philosophy and develop practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. The LEED plaque was presented by the project architect, Brent Schipper and Patrick Denahey from ASK. CyRide initially aimed for the Silver certification, but with a few extra points, CyRide achieved Gold and remained on budget. CyRide is the first public building in Iowa to achieve Gold certification and the CyRide building is the only building to receive both LEED and AIA Awards. When CyRide was designed, it was on the cutting edge of LEED design. The certification process was a year-long endeavor. This achievement was celebrated with a press release from ASK Studio and CyRide.

President Anders inquired as to how CyRide maintains on-going operating regulations on the HVAC system. Asst. Transit Director, Rich Leners, told the transit board, all mechanical equipment is documented through the certification process and an on-going maintenance plan developed to maintain the systems in good working order. HVAC systems are complicated, but there are other products like carpet, that are low-tech features.

Director Kyras shared the APTA Bus Safety Award CyRide received for operating more than 1 million miles over the course of the year without a single accident claim. This is a first for CyRide's thirty-two year history.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** According to the Ames Municipal Code, Chapter 26A, the election of officers is to take place in June or July. President Anders asked for nominations from the floor. It was proposed, current officers remain in their elected positions - Bob Anders, as President and Jim Popken, as Vice President.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt the current officers for the ensuing year and seconded by Trustee Schainker. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**FIXED ROUTE SERVICE CONTRAT:** Director Kyras explained at the beginning of the ISU academic school year, additional buses are needed to relieve overcrowded buses on some of its heaviest trips. CyRide previously contracted with CIT to provide these additional trips, but CIT will not be able to meet the contract this year, as CIT's contract with the Ames School District was not renewed. An RFP was issued and the low bid to provide service for the 2009-2010 school year was Durham School Services. Durham School Services is the new service provider for the Ames School District and had a bid of \$45 per trip. Director Kyras asked the transit board to approve the contract for \$45 per trip for the first year agreement with the option of renewing the service each year with an escalation of 3% - 5% for each year thereafter.

Trustee Madden made a motion to accept the bid of \$45 per trip with services being renewed each year with the escalation of 3% - 5% thereafter. Motion seconded by Trustee Schainker. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**BIKE RACK PROGRAM EXPANSION:** Director Kyras provided background information on the experiences CyRide has had with the Bike Rack program since its inception last fall. The transit board approved the Bike Rack program and implemented a demonstration program September 2008 within the community to see how it would be received. Bike racks have been installed on 50% of the buses. CyRide staff believes, that although the bike rack program has lower utilization than CyRide staff had anticipated, equipping the entire fleet will substantially improve utilization as their usage would be higher if available on all buses.

Transit board members inquired whether staff felt that the bike racks were used by commuters or for recreational purpose. In reviewing the ridership data, staff relayed that weekend use is lower, which leads staff to believe that weekday usage is mainly by commuters traveling to/from work. CyRide has the opportunity to purchase additional bike racks options contained in the original bid from SportWorks, Inc. for \$405.86 per bike rack.

Trustee Madden asked whether buses would need to be parked outside if additional bike racks are approved. Director Kyras explained that bus parking inside the building is at capacity today, however, she believes that all buses could, very tightly, be parked inside. She further explained that putting bike racks on all the buses would not be the only factor that could cause CyRide to park buses outside. She provided an example that if Durham had not provided the 7 daily trips and CyRide would have needed additional buses, buses would have needed to be parked outside. President Anders asked whether removing bike racks on a daily basis would help the bus storage situation. Rich Leners explained that taking them off and on would lead to possibility damaging the vehicles and injury issues increasing.

Trustee Heilman asked if CyRide had looked at other satellite locations for buses. Director Kyras told the transit board that staff and its consultant, Shive-Hattery, were currently looking at possible locations and would report back to the board at the next meeting.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the purchase of an additional 34 bike racks from SportWorks at a cost of \$13,799.24. Seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

Trustee Schainker asked that the funds be taken out of the budget, not ending balance, through fuel savings or others.

**INTERMODAL FACILITY STATUS REPORT:** Director Kyras provided background information on activities that have taken place since the approval of the feasibility study for the Ames Intermodal Facility.

- Study team members from Iowa State University, City of Ames and CyRide were developed.
- A needs and purpose statement was drafted.
- The study team went through a site selection process and reviewed four sites for the Intermodal Facility.
  - Downtown location did not fit the scale of what would be acceptable or could support a five-story facility.
  - ISU Center would interfere with events held at the facility and being in the flood plain, had issues with the possibility of flooding and shutting down its operations.
  - Stange Road location did not allow for economic development.
  - Campustown on Hayward, replacing ISU's Lot 60, seemed to be the most feasible location.

The Director further indicated that a public meeting had been held on July 23, 2009 and, that the public who had attended, were supportive of the Campustown location overall. The only concern raised at this meeting was from the neighborhood to the south on Hayward.

A joint CyRide/City Council/ISU meeting on the Intermodal Facility Feasibility Study will be held August 18, 2009.

Trustee Schainker mentioned this facility is more than just an Intermodal facility, it is redevelopment. Street restructuring will need to be completed, as well as stop light improvements.

Trustee Schainker questioned the \$20 - \$25 million for the TIGER grant; it is not only for transportation, isn't it for economic development as well so this money be used for redevelopment of the Campustown area such as street redevelopment too. Director Kyras said it is for transit and the range would be more to the \$25 – 30 million dollars and what it includes or adds to the funding is the building, bike paths, buses, and plaza area, not for redevelopment of Campustown. Trustee Madden information from the Public meetings indicate the 700 – 1100 parking spaces for the parking ramp will come at a cost of \$30,000 per parking spot and the development of the green initiative of creek area around the property too.

This item will need to be addressed as to ISU contribution versus the federal request in the grant.

Trustee Schainker inquired about public restrooms in the center, as well as bike storage, lockers, showers and many street improvements. He further asked about the impact on the neighborhood as far as traffic flow. Director Kyras indicated that the consultant was working through these issues and the study group would be reviewing their conclusions. She further indicated that the results would be made available at the joint meeting in August.

Trustee Popken inquired about the extent of the design concept that could be completed in the next 60-90 days. Director Kyras indicated that the study group was working through a great number of issues on the project very quickly and that she felt confident that the group could provide enough information regarding the design and functionality of the project to put in a grant application and be competitive.

Trustee Madden inquired if the site would be selected by the August 18 joint meeting? Director Kyras said that the site would be selected and a majority of the preliminary design completed by that time. Trustee Madden further indicated that he liked the positive aesthetics of using the creek in the design.

Trustee Schainker departed the meeting at 8:55am.

**SUMMER FARE FREE:** Director Kyras explained how CyRide staff would be evaluating Fare Free service by:

- Ridership, which was currently up by 25%
- Surveys are to be completed. A short survey will be conducted on the bus and a longer, intercept survey, will be conducted by interviewers asking customers questions on the bus.
- Customer comments, which have been positive.

#### **TRANSIT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Dump the Pump Ridership increased 29.3% compared to the same day in 2007. This represents an additional 643 trips on CyRide this year.

State Grant Application Status – All requests were funded: public transit infrastructure for \$160,000 to replace siding on west side of maintenance facility; 40' expansion bus for Aquatics Center, \$318,720; Brown route service \$14,743; Brown route evening service, \$16,565; and, Yellow route midday, \$7,628. President Anders asked if fire rated siding would be selected due to the facility's proximity to ISU's cooling towers. Rich Leners indicated that the siding selected will be corrosion and fire retardant.

CyRide's Old Wash Bay Reconstruction project will require a change order. A trench below the old wash bay was found that was not indicated on facility drawings and

will require a change order to remove it at a cost of \$4,676. Also, soil samples taken came back positive and will not require additional work.

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

**ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.