

## AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

May 1, 2009

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on May 1, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. in the conference room at CyRide. At 7:05 a.m. the board meeting was delayed until a quorum could be established. In the meantime, the board discussed items in the Transit Director's Report.

### TRANSIT DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2009:

Details from the Director's Report:

**CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS:** CyRide received notification from the Congressional delegation that they have requested \$1 million for the Transit Facility Expansion and \$350,000 for the Ames Intermodal Facility as a first step in fulfilling CyRide's original request of \$5 million for the Transit Facility Expansion and \$20 million for the Ames Intermodal Facility. CyRide will follow-up with the Congressional offices to support their efforts in securing this funding.

Trustee Madden arrived at 7:09 a.m.

Director Kyras contacted Lisa Brinkley with DMACC to determine if there was interest in funding additional service to the DMACC area this fall. Ms. Brinkley will contact other DMACC personnel and will follow-up with Director Kyras when information is available.

**SCHOOL BUS PROPOSAL IMPACT:** For many years, bus service for the Ames School District was provided by Central Iowa Transit (CIT). CyRide also contracted with CIT to provide additional service for CyRide during the ISU school year to relieve overcrowding on CyRide routes. This year, the Ames School District solicited proposals for bus service for the 2009 – 2012 school years, and Durham School Services was awarded the contract. With the award going to Durham, CIT cannot commit to CyRide to provide this additional service beginning in the fall. Durham management is in the process of hiring staff for the Ames area. Once this is completed CyRide will contact the new transportation firm and determine if there is interest in providing this additional service for CyRide during the school year.

Director Kyras asked the Transit Board if there was an interest in examining the possibility of the CIT building as a satellite building as the building may be available in the near future. Although it is not an ideal location and there is no room for expansion at this site, it could be a possibility as it is designed as a transit facility. The building has 4 bus bays, staffing area for administration, and bus storage. Director Kyras also raised the issue of the impact on the inter-city bus carrier, Jefferson and Burlington Trailways, if the building was sold since these carriers are located in the CIT building. Director Kyras asked the board if there was interest in looking into this property and Trustee Schainker suggested CyRide staff complete an analysis of the building and check with the City Assessor to see what the value of property is.

Trustee Madden suggested that CyRide take a look at a second property on State Street south of Highway 30 as well, as ISU had been notified that it was for sale. This property was formerly the Willey office book storage property. The property is not within the city limits, but sits on 2 acres of land. There is also the possibility of using additional farmland adjacent to this property. CyRide staff will take a look at, and analyze, each piece of property and bring information back to the Transit Board over the summer.

Meeting was called to order at 8:19 a.m. by President Anders after a quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented from the March 30, 2009 and April 27, 2009 February 26, 2009 meetings. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments.

President Anders introduced and welcomed the new GSB representatives Kayla Pinegar and Mike Heilman. President Anders recognized Jen Munoz and Jacob Wilson, who were not in attendance, for their vision and dedication to CyRide and the Ames and ISU Community.

**RATE SETTING RESOLUTION – FARES 2009-1:** Director Kyras reported that each year the Transit Board sets rates for fares and passes. Staff is recommending that that fares remain the same for 2009-2010 with one exception, the airport shuttle fare. CyRide has provided this service for a number of years with CyRide contracting with a private operator since the 2007-2008 year when fares on this service increased from \$10 to \$12 to recover 100% of the cost to operate. In 2008-2009 when bids were requested for the airport shuttle route, the bids came in more than three times the previous year's cost. As a result, CyRide opted to provide service on this route instead of contracting as the budget did not account for this higher price.

CyRide staff over the last month researched how other transit systems handle service between their community and an airport in another community. CyRide staff found two other university's/public transit systems that operate service to outlying airports - University of Michigan and the Miami University of Ohio's Parking and Transportation Department. University of Michigan service is operated by the GSB and uses an over-the-road coach with a cost of \$7.00 for advance reservations and \$10.00 for same day reservations. University of Miami Ohio is provided by city buses and vans and its price is \$27.50 for reservations to the closest airport Cincinnati/Dayton which is approximately 1.25 hrs away, and \$47.50 to Indianapolis/Columbus airport, which is 2.5 hrs away.

CyRide staff found that transportation from other universities range from a low of \$13 to a high of \$49 and were operated by private operators. Director Kyras indicated that if CyRide charged \$15 in advance and \$20 for same day reservations that this would allow CyRide to directly operate the service with no fare increase and cover 100% of the expenses or contract with a private operator recovering 50% of the expenses which would require a CyRide budget

contribution of \$9,000. As rates are generally set in April of each year for the following fiscal year, Director Kyras indicated that the rates would be set before bids were taken on this service making it difficult to establish the proper fare in advance of knowing the costs.

A discussion between the board members ensued regarding the benefits of CyRide operating the service versus contracting with a private operator. Director Kyras explained the liability exposure for CyRide with buses traveling on the interstate at speeds of 60 mph and luggage not being able to be adequately secured and separated from passengers. Other issues are CyRide buses do not have the capacity like the over the road coaches to meet the demand, provide better service and a more comfortable ride for the passengers. It takes twice as many CyRide buses to do the same service an over-the-road coach due to its configuration.

Trustee Madden suggested Director Kyras speak with Tom Hill, Student Affairs, at Iowa State. Trustee Schainker suggested that since the fare structure does not affect students leaving Iowa State at the end of the school year, that CyRide could request proposals and take action on these proposals in August. Additionally, rates could be adopted at that same meeting following action on the proposals.

Trustee Madden made a motion to adopt the 2009-1 Fares resolution with the exclusion of the airport rate to be set in August. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**RATE-SETTING RESOLUTION – FARES 2009-2:** Director Kyras informed the transit board, this is the same resolution the board approves each year. Passes sold this past year increased 14.6% and revenue generated from pass sales during the same period increased 18.4%.

Trustee Madden made the motion to approve the rates as presented with no change from 2008-2009 rates. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**FEDERAL DISCRETIONARY BUS PURCHASE:** Director Kyras reminded the transit board that in March, CyRide ordered nine 40' buses with funds from the American Recover and Reinvestment Act and Iowa Clean Air Attainment program. The IDOT notified Iowa transit systems they had received an additional \$7.1 million through discretionary funds and that CyRide would be eligible to purchase additional buses.

The Iowa DOT's list of buses eligible for replacement indicates CyRide would be eligible to purchase nine additional buses; however, CyRide has the local match for five of the large 40' buses and two small buses. With a closing capital balance of \$689,999, this provides adequate funds to purchase the five large and two small buses and leaves funds for building repairs and construction projects.

CyRide would be able to award the large bus purchase to Gillig as part of the Akron, OH national bus purchase with these last five buses to be delivered in

January or February of 2011. The large buses will replace bus #s 926, 927, 980, 981 and 983. The smaller buses would be purchased through the statewide small bus procurement process.

CyRide's shop personnel have identified used buses than can be purchased from Fresno Transit in California at an estimated price of \$1,500 per bus. There will be additional costs for painting buses and meeting CyRide bus standards. These buses an anticipated to be available late this fall and could quickly be placed into service allowing for newer, used buses in the interim until the buses ordered from Gillig arrive in 2010 and 2011.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the purchase of five 40' buses to Gillig Corporation of Oakland, California for an amount not to exceed \$1,920,000. Trustee Popken seconded the motion. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**STATE GRANT APPLICATION:** Director Kyras told the transit board the state grant for 2009-2010 year to the Iowa DOT is due May 1, 2009. The federal share for operating is \$687,831 and the federal share for capital is \$5,146,528 for a total State Grant application amount of \$5,834,359.

Shari Atwood explained that the operating projects include STA funding, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC), Assistance for Yellow route service improvements, assistance for Brown route improvements and Elderly and Disabled Funding, contract for ADA service with Heartland.

Capital 5309 earmark requests are 8 – 40' replacement buses w/cameras, 5 – 40' expansion buses with cameras, 2 minibuses w/cameras, facility cameras/proximity card access, actuated shutoffs for hydraulic lines in the shop area, electric distribution rehabilitation and vehicle surveillance systems for 38 units.

Additionally, the grant includes one expansion bus under New Freedom for the new aquatic center, transit amenities – shelter improvements at bus stops under Federal Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled and West wall EIFS replacement rehabilitation under Infrastructure grant.

Trustee Popken made a motion to approve the FY2010 State Grant Application subject to public hearing comments. Trustee Madden seconded the motion. (Motion carried unanimously.)

**ENERGY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:** Director Kyras brought the board members up-to-date on the Economic Stimulus package, which allocated transit funds in March 2009 through formula funding. In addition to these funds, several discretionary stimulus programs have just become available from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), both with the possibility of 100% funding.

The DOE program provides \$300 million for energy reduction projects, to reduce green house gases or to meet both goals. Upgrading diesel transit buses to alternatively fueled vehicles including hybrid–electric buses is one project eligible

under this funding. The guidelines favor consolidated grant applications from multiple organizations and applications that are geographically dispersed.

CyRide has 2 hybrid-electric buses ordered with seven diesel buses under the ARRA for delivery in July-August 2010. Shortly, CyRide will be ordering five additional diesel buses through the Congressional earmarking process that could be upgraded to hybrid buses before delivery. Ten other transit systems are interested in upgrading diesel buses as well and the Iowa DOT has offered to submit an application to the DOE on behalf of the transit systems. Director Kyras and Shari Atwood, Transit Planner, agreed to gather information and prepare the grant. Under the DOE grant, they either approve or disapprove the entire application and if the grant is approved, will deal directly with the public transit staff at the Iowa DOT.

A second grant application for hybrid buses could be submitted to the Department of Transportation for funding under the Transportation In Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER). This application would also be a statewide application with CyRide staff offering to be the lead agency on this grant application. The DOT grant could be approved in total or for separate projects by just one transit agency. Projects approved for funding would be administered directly with the requesting transit agency.

CyRide could also submit a DOT application for four diesel articulated (60') buses. Articulated buses were recommended in CyRide's Transit Feasibility Study completed in 2007 and would take the place of 3, 40' buses. These buses would increase passenger capacity, reduce operating costs and energy consumption, and would be used on the Orange and Red routes. The transit board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a new style of vehicle into the transit fleet.

Trustee Madden made a motion to approve the inclusion of, and authorize the Transit Director to submit, the upgrade cost of 12 hybrid buses in the statewide Department of Energy and Department of Transportation grant applications and to submit a grant application for 4 diesel articulated buses to the Department of Transportation. Motion seconded by Trustee Popken. (Motion carried unanimously.)

There was no further discussion, just information only, on the Transit Director's report for April 2009.

Rich Leners, Asst. Director Fleet and Facility will contact Shive Hattery inspect the Central Iowa Transit (CIT) facility that is or will be for sale and have them complete an environmental analysis to determine if facility is a consideration as a satellite facility for CyRide.

**SET TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** Future transit board meetings scheduled are: June 1 at 8:00 a.m. and July 29 at 8:00 a.m. in the CyRide Conference Room.

**ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

