

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AMES, IOWA

February 16, 2010

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on February 16, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room at CyRide. President Anders called the transit board meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Trustees in attendance were Anders, Pinegar, Schainker, Wacha, and Heilman. Absent: Trustee Madden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Trustee Wacha made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2010 transit board meeting and seconded by Trustee Heilman. (Five ayes; zero nays; motion carried unanimously).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

2010 FUEL CONTRACTS: Director Kyras reported CyRide completed a demonstration project purchasing diesel fuel under a contract, procuring fuel from May through December of 2009. The project resulted in a savings of \$35,239 over market rates and CyRide staff feels it would be beneficial to contract fuel once again.

CyRide staff would like to move forward with the City of Ames Purchasing Department to develop an RFP for CyRide fuel purchases. The benefits of this fuel purchase arrangement are that it stabilizes fuel and creates possible savings in this expense. The contracting arrangement could include:

- Purchasing 70% of CyRide fuel commitment, 210,000 of CyRide's 300,000 gallons of fuel purchased in a year
- Enter into five, two-month contracts with the lowest bid supplier
- Procuring the remaining 30% of CyRide's fuel needs on the rack price determining whether the contracted or rack price was most beneficial at the time of purchase.

Both entities, the Transit Board and the City Council, would approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$483,000 for fuel expense for the 2010-2011 budget, averaging \$2.30 per gallon.

Trustee Madden arrived at 4:36 p.m.

Trustee Schainker make a motion to approve up to five, two-month fuel contracts at a total price not to exceed \$483,000 or an average contract amount in excess of \$2.30 per gallon. Motion seconded by Trustee Heilman. (Ayes six, nays zero; motion carried unanimously.)

BUILDING EXPANSION DISCUSSION: Director Kyras reviewed the information and discussions the Transit Board and CyRide staff have had over the past two years concerning the building expansion. She further explained that the expansion planning study's time horizon for housing the fleet size was for the next 20 years. She discussed that the study to date had covered expansion at the current CyRide location, satellite locations, and most recently expansion of the facility to adjacent land (ISU Soccer field).

CyRide is in jeopardy of losing federal funding it has secured, \$1,879,565, in September 2010 if no decision on site preference is made.

Director Kyras shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Transit Board providing information on the expansion since the first options that were introduced to the Transit Board. Some of the key points in the presentation were:

- CyRide's expansion history, which has been completed in five phases beginning in 1984 and completed with the administrative offices in 2008.
- The facility vision changes include: a fleet of 40 - 60 ft. buses as opposed to 35 ft. buses, buses today are taller and a desire to have a minimum of 73 vehicles to meet current demand.
- CyRide's facility is land locked with the existing site of 4.5 acres; this creates maintenance shop constraints as well as for bus storage and the maintenance shop being undersized for the number of buses.
- There are safety issues with vehicles being parked within 1 foot of each other, which causes a fire hazard.
- Current facility accommodates 60 large vehicles and the projection is for 78 – 90 large buses in 20 years following historical trends, Land Use Policy Plan and ISU enrollment projections.
- The study found that a maximum of 70 large vehicles could be housed on the current site by building on all available land, falling short of the 78-90 bus projection.
- One expansion consideration at the current site is not to over build, which would make reuse by ISU difficult or impossible in the future.
- The probable cost of constructing the best option at the existing site is \$25,039,000.
- The Transit Board looked at other options for a satellite analysis, which would meet all future facility requirements. The probable cost of this option was \$21,671,000.
- A study group ranked all known available satellite site locations throughout the city and reviewed various site possibilities with city staff. The result was that the Wiley-Blackwell publishing site fit the criteria the best for a satellite location.
- The Transit Board discussed the Wiley site and found no fatal flaws, but issues such as pavement condition and intersection congestion.
- A new option was discussed at the January 2010 Transit Board meeting of expanding to an adjacent site (ISU Soccer field).
- Staff explained the costs to operate a satellite facility, available funding, and the next steps possible.
- CyRide staff shared their preference in site locations (adjacent site) and ways to examine the possibilities of this site such as: contract extensions with past consultants and discussion with ISU Athletic Department.

Following a lengthy discussion with the Transit Board, the consensus of the board members was:

- They were not convinced a satellite location was the best option.
- While the adjacent site had major hurdles to overcome, it seemed most logical in keeping the facilities together and reducing operating costs.

The Trustees also expressed a desire to gain a better understanding of how the existing site could be maximized in the future.

Trustee Heilman made a motion to approve further discussion and development of soccer field sites with an RFQ for design. Seconded by Trustee Pinegar. (Ayes 6, nays zero, motion carried unanimously.)

2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: Director Kyras provided the Transit Board with a recommendation on CyRide legislative priorities for communication to the Congressional delegation representing the Ames area. She explained the three priorities as follows:

- The Job's Bill, possible second economic stimulus bill (CyRide received \$3.4 million from the first stimulus in 2009). State of Iowa could receive \$33 million. Encourage Iowa's two Senators to approve this bill.
- Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill provides a once in six year opportunity to provide significant bus and facility funding for CyRide. A request for \$12 million over the six years to expand storage and maintenance facilities. Additionally, to change the program language in the "Bus and Bus Facilities" program providing preference to replace the oldest buses in the nation first as CyRide is listed as 15th according to the most recent National Transit Database statistics.
- Last, the FY11 Annual Transportation Appropriations requesting \$4.25 million, for FY11 for facility funding not received last year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Kyras informed the Transit Board that the Iowa DOT had requested transit systems in Iowa to apply for capital projects to be funded under a possible second stimulus (Jobs) bill. She said that the Senate had approved a Jobs Bill and the House was considering versions of a similar bill, both including federal funding for transit. Transit systems were requested to develop projects by January 29, 2010 and place them in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for their next meeting. If the bill is passed, funds could be allocated immediately for approved projects. CyRide's request for this funding is included in the Director's Report.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: March 29, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Robert Anders, President

Joanne Van Dyke, Recording Secretary