

AAMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES AREA MPO LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

BACKGROUND:

Recently, CyRide had in depth discussions with Iowa State University towards applying for grant discretionary funding for an Intermodal Facility. While decisions were made not to proceed forward with the application at this time, the project is still viable and needs to be incorporated into Ames Long Range Transportation Plan as required for the project being incorporated into Ames Transportation Improvement Plans.

The following is a brief explanation of the project components needing to be amended into the existing Ames Area MPO Long Range Transportation Plan titled "**ISU Intermodal Facility**":

- **Joint development project:** Iowa State University, Intercity Bus carriers (Jefferson Lines and Burlington Trailways) and CyRide would develop joint development agreement as required by FTA.
- **Reconfirming Site Location:** The proposed north site location west of Stange just south of the railroad would be confirmed as part of the first phase of continuing this Intermodal project if funding were approved.
- **Intercity Private Carrier Bus Depot:** An FTA priority area, the intercity carrier depot would be relocated from current location near I-35 to this central campus location capturing 10-20% more estimated ridership while providing connectivity to bike/transit routes within the City of Ames. Overall 1,420 square feet of office, waiting area, restrooms and vendor areas would be available to the intercity carriers accessible at all times day/night with added security benefit of ISU Campus police. (see last bullet for additional information.)
- **CyRide Transit Connection & Articulated Bus Purchase:** CyRide would provide connectivity throughout the City of Ames via the blue, brown and cardinal routes currently traveling past this location site. A covered outdoor bus stop would be incorporated into the facility design however passengers would have access to the same amenities as the intercity carriers within the Intermodal facility. Operational efficiencies would be realized (another FTA priority area) by replacing three older non-accessible 40-foot buses with wheelchair accessible articulated (60-foot) buses on the cardinal route allowing approximately 400 additional riders per hour with the same labor.
- **Fringe Parking Ramp:** ISU would incorporate a 5-deck - 700 space parking ramp to accommodate current/future demand while meeting planned vision in keeping vehicular traffic at the fringes of campus. The facility could possibly accommodate parking for ISU faculty/staff, automobiles/vanpools, intercity carrier long-term parking and bike stanchions.
- **ISU Campus Police:** Relocate ISU Campus Police from Armory to facility for added security element to the Intermodal Facility. The following functions could be incorporated: six offices, briefing room, lunch room, dispatch office, property room.

To incorporate this project within a Transportation Improvement Plan or move forward with a future grant application on this project, the current Long Range Transportation Plan would need to be amended adding the description of the project

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the incorporation of the ISU Intermodal Facility description to the Long Range Transportation Plan amendment for submission to the Iowa Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration for final submission.
2. Do not approve the incorporation of the ISU Intermodal Facility description to the Long Range Transportation Plan amendment for submission to the Iowa Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration for final submission.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended by the Administrator that the AAMPO Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1 based on comments made at the committee meeting. This will allow CyRide to incorporate the ISU Intermodal Facility within Transportation Improvement Plans to request future federal funding during the earmark process.