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Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

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27 August 2009

Ms. Sheri Kyras
Director of Transit
CyRide
1700 University Boulevard
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Ms. Kyras:

SUBJECT: AMES INTERMODAL FACILITY LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) offers this letter in support of the City of Ames/Iowa State University/CyRide application to the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program to fund an intermodal facility near Iowa State University in the City of Ames.

The HIRTA understands that bays will be included in this facility for CyRide, HIRTA, intercity bus carriers, an airport shuttle, and taxicabs. Parking spaces and bicycle parking also will be available. The HIRTA appreciates being included in the plan for this building as it will allow our Contractor, Heartland Senior Services, to bring our passengers from all over Story County to one central location to access other transit modes.

As a whole, this intermodal facility will support economic recovery by making available parking for vanpools which provide access to employment opportunities, by creating more parking for Campustown businesses allowing easier access for general public patrons, and by providing space for some small retail shops within the facility.

The HIRTA encourages the funding of the City of Ames/Iowa State University/CyRide Intermodal Facility through the TIGER program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Howard Pothoven
Board of Directors Chair

cc: Theresa Erlbacher, Heartland Senior Services Transportation Director
John Middents, Heartland Senior Services Executive Director
Wayne E. Clinton, Story County Board of Supervisors/HIRTA Board of Directors
Kristin Haar, HIRTA Executive Director



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A Resource for Older Adults

September 2, 2009

U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington DC, 20590

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

SUBJECT: Ames Intermodal Facility Letter of Support

Heartland Senior Services of Story County submits this letter of support for the City of Ames, CyRide and Iowa State University's application to the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery program to fund an intermodal facility in Ames, Iowa.

Heartland Senior Services is the public transportation provider for Story County through a contract with the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) and is the paratransit provider for the City of Ames through a contract relationship with CyRide. Heartland Senior Services through discussions with CyRide understands that the new facility will provide a bay for Heartland Senior Services' buses so that its riders will have a convenient link with regional and national private bus services as well as with the CyRide routes. This will lead to easier transfers between the various types of transportation in the City of Ames and should lead to greater use of those transportation options.

Heartland Senior Services supports the funding of the City of Ames, CyRide and Iowa State University's application for funding for the Intermodal Facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Middents", is written over a large, light-colored scribble.

John Middents
Executive Director

*The mission of Heartland Senior Services is to help create a community that values older people
and that supports them in achieving and maintaining their desired quality of life.*



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September 2, 2009

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington DC, 20590

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Larry Logeman. I own a small passenger transportation company that specializes in airport shuttle services. We recently opened a branch office in Ames, Ia. I wanted to write this letter to support the Ames Intermodal Facility project developed through the CyRide, City of Ames and Iowa State University partnership and urge the US Department of Transportation to approve funding for this project. CyRide has been a great leader in the community and we have been blessed to work with them on opening our branch office. Iowa State University is a very good customer of ours and will only get better in the years to come.

We currently rent some commercial garage space in town to store our vehicles and an office. It is adequate but does not serve the needs of the community as much as an intermodal facility would. I have been working with CyRide to develop a facility that will meet our needs today and in the future. The facility will greatly improve the condition of the current intercity bus depot. - indoor waiting area, dedicated bus parking, etc. We may even be able to have a ticket counter that will give us a stronger presence in the Ames community. Construction of this facility will allow for easier transfers between other types of transportation and will provide the catalyst to increase riders on our shuttle from the Des Moines Airport to and from the community. Our route structure does have some limitations. I am confident that our ridership would increase if our customers could transfer to a city bus in the same building that we pick up and drop off passengers.

I urge you to consider this facility as a positive use of federal dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Logeman".

Larry Logeman
Owner
Executive Express
320-253-2226
888-522-9899



August 31, 2009

Ms. Sheri Kyras
CyRide
1700 West 6th Street
Ames, Iowa 50014

Dear Ms. Kyras:

I am writing in support of the proposed Ames Intermodal Transit Facility. We believe the connectivity of services between intercity bus companies, rural transit providers and urban transit providers is essential to the future of transportation in the Midwest.

We presently operate in a number of intermodal transit facilities. We have experienced wonderful customer feedback on all locations and the improvements offered by intermodal centers.

Since moving from the downtown area of Ames to our present location near the interstate, we have experienced reduced sales revenue as well as many customer complaints on the depot location.

I have attached a brief overview of Jefferson Lines and our role in providing transportation in Ames, Iowa.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bonnie Buchanan'.

Bonnie J. Buchanan
Vice President