

August 13, 2010

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

Department of Transportation:

This letter is submitted in support for the proposed Intermodal Facility expansion for the City of Ames, Iowa.

LANE4 is the master developer selected to revitalize the Campustown District in Ames, Iowa, which is located adjacent to the Intermodal Facility. Our role involves the design and development of a mixed-use project immediately south of Iowa State University to address the community's underserved business, University and residential needs. Revitalization plans include approximately 50,000 square feet of new office space, a 120 room Marriott hotel, 58,000 square feet for retail, and a residential component. The project will feature a pedestrian-oriented, environmentally friendly design with the latest in sustainable technology and architecture.

The revitalized district will serve the population within the immediate vicinity as well as draw a substantial number of visitors from throughout the central Iowa region. Consequently, the economic success of the development will depend on convenient and ample parking to Campustown. Although parking capacity to the area will be increased through the initial phase of intermodal improvements (part of the TIGER I program), it is anticipated that an additional 300 parking spaces will be necessary to economically support Campustown businesses within the development.

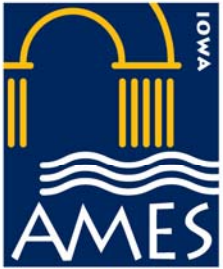
In addition to providing vital parking and convenient access to the area, the expanded intermodal project will also support alternative transportation options. The proposal calls for a continuation of the City's bike path and walking trails through the Arboretum to West Ames, which will greatly enhance connectivity from various areas of the city to Campustown and the University of Iowa. Since the revitalization area will be designed to promote walkability throughout the area, this will help support healthy and sustainable transportation to and from the project.

Due to the project's reliance on ample, convenient, and alternative parking services, LANE4 believes the intermodal facility expansion is vital to the overall economic success of area revitalization efforts.

Sincerely,



Hunter Harris  
LANE4 Director of Development



UNIVERSITY  
COMMUNITY  
OPPORTUNITY

## Convention & Visitors Bureau

August 2, 2010

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

Dear Tiger II Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau, I am writing to you in support of the proposed expansion of the Ames Intermodal Facility. This joint project between the City of Ames, Iowa State University and CyRide is an excellent example of why Ames and Iowa State University continue to be one of the finest university-based meeting sites in the United States and why Ames was named *Iowa's 2008 Tourism Community of the Year*.

The Bureau is excited about the opportunities the proposed expansion of this new facility will bring to our community. Transportation to Ames and within the community is an important factor when visitors are choosing a destination for an event or for individual travel. The intermodal facility will provide valuable services for residents, Iowa State students and visitors that will provide better mobility through the community, increase the quality of life for area residents and help us continue to be better stewards of our natural resources and the environment. The facility expansion will also generate additional development in Campustown, creating a more dynamic area for residents and visitors.

Ames continues to be a preferred destination for more than a half million visitors each year, due to ongoing efforts to provide key services that make it rewarding to visit our community. The travel industry is important to the continued vitality of Ames. During 2009, visitors generated more than \$69 million dollars in economic impact for our community.

As we plan for the continued growth of the travel industry, we always keep in mind how available services affect the quality of life for local residents and their impact on local businesses and the university. We support the expansion of this new facility and look forward to promoting the additional services to visitors in the future.

Sincerely,

Julie J. Weeks  
Director  
Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau

August 7, 2010

Sheri Kyras, Transit Director  
CyRide  
1700 University Blvd.  
Ames, IA 50010

**RE: Ames Intermodal Facility**

Dear Sheri,

On behalf of the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Ames Economic Development Commission I write to you in support of the TIGER II funding application for the joint project between the City of Ames, Iowa State University, and our local mass transportation provider, CyRide.

We are highly grateful for the funding that has been appropriated and hope that this second phase of funding will also come to fruition for the project that is so vitally important to Iowa State, Campustown, and the greater Ames community. With a Kansas City developer looking at a major redevelopment of the Campustown area coupled with the first phase of the Intermodal facility this second round of funding is imperative to helping Campustown meet its full potential.

On behalf of the nearly 750 members of the Ames Chamber of Commerce, the 100 plus investors in the Ames Economic Development Commission and the leadership of these groups; we wholeheartedly support the application for funding for the great, and very much needed, project.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Culhane, CEcD  
President & CEO  
Ames Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development





515 Clark Avenue  
P.O. Box 811  
Ames, IA 50010  
p: 515.239.5160  
f: 515.239.5404

August 5, 2010

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

RE: Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion - TIGER II Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm the Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion project within the current FFY2011 Ames Area Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the current 2030 Long Range Plan illustrating local commitment to CyRide's TIGER II grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Specifically, the Ames Intermodal Facility is contained within the 2011 year of the FFY2011 TIP as well as the FFY2010 TIP. The Ames Area MPO staff has been directly involved with the steering committee developing this expansion project and believes this transportation improvement to be important to Ames, the central Iowa region and nation.

The local transit operator, CyRide, is not currently part of the Intermodal Facility transportation due to a lack of available parking revenue to sustain a shuttle route from this facility. It is estimated that the parking revenue will fund the facility maintenance repairs, but will not be enough for the inclusion of a transit route. Funding of this expansion project through TIGER II will allow for this service to be operated. While all the intercity transit, regional transit, airport shuttle operator, taxi, vanpool/carpool transportation modes have been integrated into the facility project, the connectivity is lost as CyRide doesn't operate through the facility as originally conceptualized. In other words, the ***livability of the project has been lost*** and ease of ***accessing transportation from users will be lacking*** without CyRide integrated into the facility operational structure. In the MPO's view, additional facility parking needs to be built providing the revenues needed to meet the livability of the project allowing the entire community to access the facility via transit. This is a community where over 9% of the population rides transit to work in a state that averages only 1% transit ridership. This is a community where access to alternative transportation is not just a need but a desire. This is a community where the residents are the nation in traveling to attend Iowa State University from across the United States as well as countries throughout the world.

Expansion of the facility would also increase the livability of the project by completing the bike path through ISU's arboretum, as originally conceptualized, to make a connection from a high capacity residential area into ISU campus.



515 Clark Avenue  
P.O. Box 811  
Ames, IA 50010  
p: 515.239.5160  
f: 515.239.5404

The MPO acknowledges that CyRide has had several opportunities to obtain input from the public interests groups for this facility expansion meeting the MPO's goal for public participation for this project including neighborhood groups and historical perspectives to the design of the facility. This information and meetings have been communicated through newspaper articles and via CyRide's website.

The MPO staff believes that this facility expansion realizes the full "livability" concept of the Ames Intermodal Facility in connecting eight transportation modes throughout Ames while sharing parking for multiple needs. The Ames Area MPO strongly supports the TIGER II grant application for the Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion in the campustown area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John C. Joiner".

John Joiner  
Public Works Director & Ames Area MPO Director

JJ:sa

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

## Graduate and Professional Student Senate

17 August 2010

To whom it may concern:

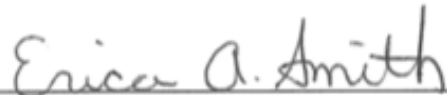
The Campustown community is important to the students of Iowa State University and residents of Ames. Additional parking and bus service are needed to accommodate revitalization of Campustown, and the proposed Intermodal Facility will meet those needs.

On 31 August 2009, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate passed a resolution supporting the Intermodal Facility. The Senate continues to support the facility.

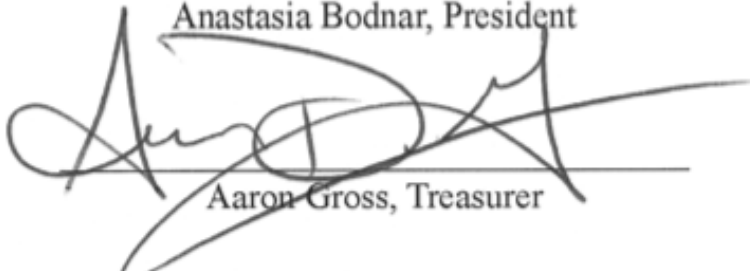
Sincerely,



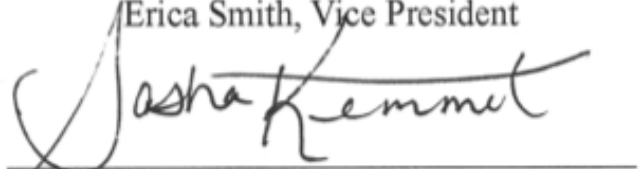
Anastasia Bodnar, President



Erica Smith, Vice President



Aaron Gross, Treasurer



Sasha Kemmet, Chief Information Officer



Portia Allen, University Relations and  
Legislative Affairs



Maggie Luttrell, Professional Advancement  
Grant Chair

Attached: Senate Resolution F09-01 Supporting an Intermodal Facility

CC: CyRide Board of Directors (contact Sheri Kyras)

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### SENATE RESOLUTION F09-01 SENATE MEETING August 31, 2009

**TITLE:** Supporting an Intermodal Facility

**WHEREAS:** The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided grants available to the Department of Transportation via the Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) program, and

**WHEREAS:** Iowa State University sponsored a Campustown study in 2008 to address the growing concern and need for redevelopment of the Campustown community and the study indicated that additional parking would be needed for such a redevelopment, and

**WHEREAS:** A proposed project between the City of Ames, CyRide, and Iowa State University for the building of an Intermodal Transportation Facility in the Campustown area would accommodate a link between public and private transportation along with addressing the parking need in the Campustown area to stimulate economic redevelopment and the long-term revitalization of the Campustown Community, be it therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) recognizes the importance of the Campustown community and its link to the University, and let it be further

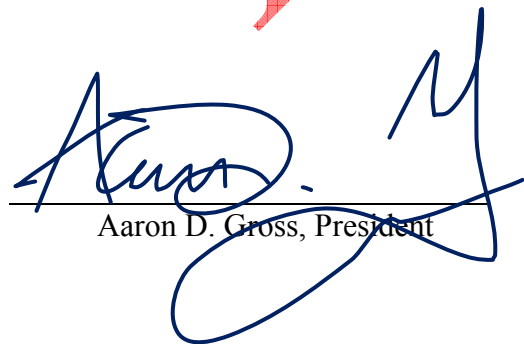
**RESOLVED:** That GPSS supports the proposed project for building an Intermodal Transportation Facility in the Campustown area, with the intention of linking public transportation and revitalization of this area, and let it be further

**RESOLVED:** That copies of this resolution be sent to the University President Gregory Geoffroy, CyRide Board of Directors (Contact: Sheri Kyras), Facilities Planning and Management Program Manager Cathy Brown, Executive Vice President and Provost Elizabeth Hoffman, Vice President of Student Affairs Thomas Hill, Vice-President for Business and Finance Warren Madden, Dean of Students Dione Somerville, Alumni Association President Jeff Johnson, and Zach Thompson, editor of the Iowa State Daily.

Sponsors:

P. ALLEN

M. McCARVILLE



Aaron D. Gross, President



Greg Peiffer, Chair of the Senate



# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Government of the Student Body

Memorial Union  
Ames, Iowa 50011  
515 294-1585  
FAX 515 294-5239  
www.gsb.iastate.edu

August 9, 2010

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

RE: Ames Transit Agency TIGER II Discretionary Grant Application

Dear US Department of Transportation Administrator:

I write on behalf of the student body of Iowa State University in support of the Ames Transit Agency's (CyRide's) application for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant. CyRide's application for the expansion of the Ames Intermodal Facility would provide significant benefits to Iowa State students. This application includes the addition of two bus bays and a canopy to the facility for the operation of a shuttle connecting the facility with our campus and the Campustown business district. The project will also add two hybrid buses as well as provide the convenience of automatic vehicle locator equipment and new bicycle lockers. It will also enhance the efficiency of overall traffic flow in the area by improving streets and traffic signals and adding a bicycle path to connect West Ames to Campustown and the Iowa State campus.

This project will play a vital role in stimulating the redevelopment of Campustown, a project that is extremely important to students, especially those under age 21. Campustown redevelopment also has the potential to provide numerous student jobs. The project furthers the sustainability initiatives of Iowa State students through adding clean hybrid buses. Additionally, the project will enhance the ability of Iowa State students to travel safely in Campustown by adding bus routes and improving safe traffic flow with improved roads and signals.

In summary, I urge your agency to consider and approve funding for this project as it will have numerous benefits for the student population at Iowa State University.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Luke Roling  
President, Government of the Student Body  
Iowa State University





# Iowa Department of Transportation

Office of Public Transit, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010

August 9, 2010

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

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation Official:

SUBJECT: Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion TIGER II Grant

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) offers its full support of the Ames Intermodal Facility and encourages Federal funding approval under the TIGER II program. This project represents collaboration between the private and public sectors and is positioned to be an economic catalyst and important multimodal transportation hub.

The Iowa DOT is excited about this project for the Ames community and central Iowa region as this expansion will include the local public transit provider, CyRide, to operate a high-frequency shuttle route to/from the facility, thus completing the multi-modal aspect of the project. Without this important connection to/from other areas of Ames, individuals may not utilize the Intermodal Facility to its fullest potential. Ames already is a community in which nine-percent of the public rides public transit on a daily basis. CyRide is an essential component in the intermodal facility project to access intercity or regional transit modes thereby contributing to an even more livable community.

For the past several years, the private, intercity carriers have been shuffled around the outskirts of Ames. They now reside in a temporary, centralized location until the Intermodal Facility construction is finalized in June 2012. However, when the intercity carriers do relocate for this final time, connection to the facility via a CyRide shuttle is the critical piece which is currently unfunded, estimated at \$200,000 in parking revenues annually. This new home for the intercity carriers will certainly attract additional usage but not without the local transit system to tie the transportation modes together. The other transportation elements to be completed with this TIGER II expansion request are the bicycle/pedestrian trail connection into west Ames containing a high density residential area and fulfilling the vanpool/carpool parking spaces need from the original vision of the project.

Again, the Iowa DOT encourages the USDOT to consider the Ames Intermodal Facility project for the TIGER II program. It is the Iowa DOT's opinion that it meets the intent of this program and will benefit Iowans in Ames and the central Iowa region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle McEnany".

Michelle McEnany, Director  
Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

# Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

*Helping People. Changing Lives.  
Building Communities.*

June 7, 2010

## **TIGER II - Letter of Support Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this document as a *Letter of Support* for CyRide in Ames, Iowa. I have had the privilege of working with the staff at CyRide for many years and am excited to support this grant application.

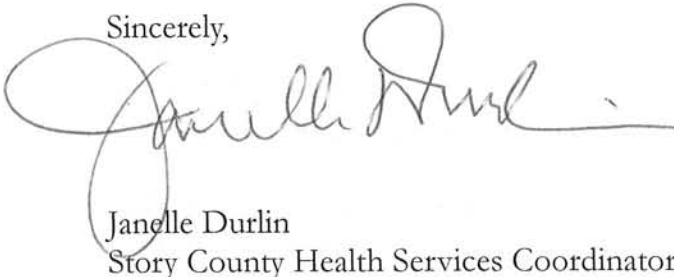
Having worked for Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) for the last 18 years, I have seen firsthand the impact that CyRide has had in our community. MICA provides various programs for low incomes families in Story County with the majority of families residing in Ames. Because many families do not have their own personal vehicle, they rely on CyRide for doctor appointments, school functions, grocery shopping, and misc. errands.

Without having CyRide as a part of this project, other connecting routes from Jefferson Lines, Executive Express, and Burlington Trailways could be lost. Needy families often use these routes, so not having them available would certainly jeopardize their ability to connect with family and friends outside of our area.

As a health conscious woman, continuing the bike/pedestrian path between Sheldon and State Streets is a huge "plus" for exercisers in Story County. Every opportunity that we have to improve this transportation route will certainly benefit the young and old in our community for years to come!

We are proud to partner with CyRide to serve families in our community and hope that they are successful with obtaining this grant funding.

Sincerely,



Janelle Durlin  
Story County Health Services Coordinator

July 28, 2010

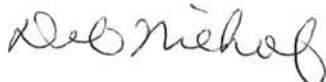
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear members of the Department of Transportation:

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Central Iowa would like to express support and endorsement for CyRide's application for TIGER II funds for additional features for the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility. Many persons with mental illness use public transportation because they are not financially able to own a vehicle. Also, persons with mental illness frequently need to take medications that cause sedation, making it dangerous for them to drive. Many of these people are already using CyRide on a daily basis to get around Ames. However, when they have appointments in Des Moines or Iowa City, or want to travel to visit friends or family members, they find it difficult to arrange transportation. Being able to access transportation modes that operate throughout the region and nation would improve livability for these people suffering from disabilities.

NAMI is delighted that CyRide continues to grow and serve the community. We are very supportive of the work of CyRide and their request for funding that would enhance the lives of those living with mental illness.

Sincerely,



Deb Niehof, Executive director





STORY COUNTY  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Wayne E. Clinton, Chair  
515-382-7203  
Jane E. Halliburton  
515-382-7201

STORY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
900 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEVADA, IOWA 50201  
515-382-7200  
515-382-72006 - FAX

August 10, 2010

Ms. Sheri Kyras  
Director of Transit  
CyRide  
1700 University Blvd.  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Ms. Kyras:

The Story County Board of Supervisors offers this letter of support for the City of Ames/Iowa State University/CyRide application to the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) program for the expansion of the Ames Intermodal Facility near Iowa State University in the City of Ames.

The Board understands that the facility funded with TIGER I funding was significantly less than originally planned for the facility and several major pieces of the overall project were not able to be funded under the first TIGER program. The missing transportation link in this facility, once open, will be the inclusion of CyRide. We believe it is essential to the success of the coordinated transportation system in Central Iowa to include CyRide in this facility and for our county-wide public transportation customers to access regional transportation. The parking component that will spur the redevelopment of the Campustown Business District will also provide the needed revenue to operate CyRide service from the facility. Therefore, the parking, transit and bicycle components of the application are integrally connected and required to develop a successful project.

Therefore, the Story County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the expansion of this facility and urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund this needed expansion of the Ames Intermodal Facility.

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Clinton  
Story County Board of Supervisors, Chair