

September 27, 2011

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

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation Representative:

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate the Campustown Action Association's support for the Ames Intermodal Facility Expansion project requesting funding under the TIGER discretionary federal program. The Campustown Action Association is a group of property and business owners in the Campustown Business District in Ames, Iowa who have formed together to provide leadership within the community regarding issues affecting the revitalization and success of this important area of the city.

The Association has met to discuss the proposed expansion to the Ames Intermodal Facility and strongly supports the project in helping to meet the association, city, university and region's efforts to bring quality, long-term jobs to this area of Ames. The additional parking will bring a needed infusion into the area that will allow redevelopment to occur and make this intensely-developed land area to be more livable for its tenants, residents in the vicinity of the development and customers.

Without this expansion project the Campustown area benefits will be dramatically reduced as parking and the inclusion of CyRide within the facility are essential elements to its success. As an association, we encourage your department to strongly consider this application for funding as it not only benefits the Central Iowa region, but epitomizes the type of project envisioned for the TIGER program.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Haila". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

John A. Haila
President
Campustown Action Association



October 14, 2011

City Council
515 Clark Avenue
P.O. Box 811
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-239-5105
Fax: 515-239-5142

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

Re: Ames Intermodal Project Phase II

To Whom It May Concern:

As an owner of four businesses in the Ames Campustown district, I support the Ames Intermodal Facility's Phase II project, and believe that it will provide a much-needed investment for the community. The added parking and transportation connections this project will bring to the heart of Ames will assist in making Campustown a vibrant business sector of the city and region, enhancing the neighborhood's livability.

This second phase of the Intermodal project will add a CyRide public transit shuttle, supported by parking revenues, ensuring that mobility can occur throughout Ames and allow easy access to Campustown. This shuttle will make it easier to hire employees knowing that direct transit connections are available within a block of my businesses. Patrons will be able to freely access the Campustown district, making this area more vital as a commercial area. Finally, as a member of the Ames City Council, this project can be a catalyst that makes the Campustown redevelopment project move forward helping to spur additional development projects that could reintroduce millions of dollars in private investment into a community. Campustown has been a redevelopment priority in my recent years serving on the Ames City Council.

I encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to strongly consider phase II of the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility for TIGER Discretionary funding to complete a project that can bring substantial benefits to this small, midwestern community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Goodman
Campustown Business Owner (The Fighting Burrito, Gyrostand, Superdog and Battles Barbeque)
& Ames City Council Member

Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency



Boone • Dallas • Jasper
Madison • Marion • Story • Warren

October 13, 2011

US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C 20590

To Whom it may Concern:

Subject: Ames Intermodal Facility Letter of Support

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

HIRTA understands there will bays included in this facility for CyRide, HIRTA Public Transit, intercity bus carriers; Jefferson and Burlington Trailways, and the airport shuttle operator Executive Express. HIRTA appreciates being included in the plan, as it will allow us to bring our passengers in Story County to one central location to access other transit modes.

As a whole, this intermodal facility will be a huge asset to the Ames Community, by making various forms of public transit more easily accessible, providing available parking for vanpools, making it easier and more economical for people to get to work, creating bicycle parking to allow healthier and cleaner modes of transportation and also by providing green space to add to the appeal of those taking advantage of this new facility and the services available.

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

Sincerely,


Julia Castillo, Executive Director

October 12, 2011

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

Subject: Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility – Phase II

To Whom It May Concern:

Heartland Senior Services of Story County submits this letter of support for the CyRide application to the TIGER program to fund an Intermodal facility near Iowa State University in the City of Ames.

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 Para-transit provider for the City of Ames through a contractual relationship with CyRide.

The Intermodal Facility will provide a bay for Heartland Senior Services to connect its passengers with the intercity and regional transportation providers which will be housed in the facility. If Phase II is funded under TIGER, a CyRide shuttle will complete the mobility of passengers utilizing the facility allowing livability and connectivity throughout the Ames community. The facility was originally conceptualized as a one-stop-shop for anyone wanting transportation within the community. Ames is a community where 9% of its residents ride public transit compared to 1% throughout Iowa. In adding CyRide to the project, residents/visitors could obtain easier connections between various types of transportation and therefore increase the usage of alternative transportation even more than today.

Heartland Senior Services supports the funding of the CyRide application for the Intermodal Facility.

Sincerely,



Ellen Moore
Director of Transportation

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 15, 2011

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility (Phase II) TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

To Secretary LaHood;


My name is Larry Logeman. I own a small passenger transportation company that specializes in airport shuttle services. We opened a branch office in Ames, Iowa in August 2009. I wanted to write this letter to support the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility – Phase II project developed through the CyRide, City of Ames and Iowa State University partnership and urge the US Department of Transportation to approve 2011 TIGER 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 Ames branch office and over the past few years on the development of the Intermodal Facility Phase I portion of the project.

This next phase would provide the last component that is critical to the Intermodal Facility and our operation – a CyRide shuttle service operating throughout the facility by our indoor waiting terminal area. We visualize local residents being transported to the facility via CyRide to connect with our private airport shuttle operation to the Des Moines International Airport, more than 60 miles from Ames. Having CyRide as part of the transportation at the facility will allow for easier transfers between transportation modes and will provide the catalyst to increase riders on our shuttle operation from the Des Moines Airport and throughout 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 our passengers to get to their ultimate destination.

We are excited about our upcoming move to the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility in June 2012 as it will drastically increase the access to alternative transportation for Ames. But without CyRide, our passengers traveling from the airport to Ames may opt to drive to the facility instead of using a clean transportation mode. CyRide's service compliments our shuttle service in connecting our passengers throughout the Ames community.

I urge you to consider phase two for this facility expansion as a positive use of federal dollars.

Sincerely,


Larry Logeman
Owner



September 15, 2011

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the proposed Ames Intermodal Transit Facility Expansion for TIGER discretionary funding to add a CyRide shuttle to operate throughout the 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. Without having CyRide provide this connection throughout the Ames community, the ability to travel throughout the community is lost for our passengers once we transport them to Ames.

We presently operate in a number of intermodal transit facilities that all have the urban transit provider link within similar facilities. We have experienced positive customer feedback at all locations regarding the improvements offered by intermodal centers. We encourage you to do everything possible to improve CyRide's ability to operate transit service directly to/from the facility as that only helps increase Ames residents 'and ISU students' comfort in taking intercity transit via Jefferson Lines to Ames.

Over the past few years, we have moved three times within the Ames community and are excited for our final move into our home at the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility in June 2012. We have experienced reduced sales revenue as well as many customer complaints since moving from our original downtown area location but are excited to move back to the center of the Ames community at a depot location we can call home.

If there is anything that we can do to further support this grant application, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bonnie J. Buchanan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B'.

Bonnie J. Buchanan
Jefferson Lines, Vice President

Burlington Trailways

August 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Kyras:

Burlington Trailways fully supports CyRide's TIGER II grant application for additional funding to include CyRide as a transportation mode in the Ames Intermodal Transportation Facility. As I understand it, CyRide received funding within the first award of TIGER discretionary funding and included all transportation modes except themselves in the redesign efforts. Without having CyRide to connect our passengers throughout the Ames community, our intercity passengers will continue to have issues in riding our services.

Over the past year, Burlington Trailways has changed depot locations three times in struggling to find a new depot location from our east-side location. Therefore, we graciously are waiting for the Ames Intermodal Facility project to be opened in June 2012. This facility will undoubtedly increase Burlington Trailways' ability to encourage intercity transportation while providing a stable depot location for the foreseeable future and this will only be better in having CyRide as a mode within the facility. We plan on hiring a person in coordination with another intercity transit provider to operate our ticket counter sales at this facility. CyRide is the final critical transportation mode allowing connectivity throughout the Ames community that our passengers desperately need. Therefore, we support and encourage your submittal of a grant application allowing such livability to be possible.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Hoxie
Director of Safety, Training,
& Public Funding