

CyRide Signals

July 25, 2012

ADMINISTRATION:

CyRide Reaches 100 Million Passengers: CyRide carried our 100,000,000 passenger on Saturday, June 30th! The last huge milestone of 75 million passengers was achieved nearly 5 years ago on October 17, 2007. What an accomplishment to all of our past and present employees in providing safe and excellent service to the Ames community. (Sheri K.)

State Roadeo Champs: Congratulations to Paul Klimesh and Kevin Gries at this year's Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) State Roadeo held in Waterloo, Iowa in June. Paul and Kevin placed 1st and 2nd respectively in both large and mini-bus divisions. Their outstanding scores are posted in the hallway adjacent the breakroom. The first place trophy is a "traveling trophy" which will travel to the transit organization of the driver that wins first place each year. Next year, CyRide will host the 2013 IPTA State Roadeo here in Ames. Keep sharpening your driver skills and enter the Roadeo.



Paul Klimesh (L) and Kevin Gries – 2012 State Champions



Paul Klimesh enjoys a light moment after participating in the state Roadeo.



Kevin Gries provides a "thumbs up" on receipt of his 2nd place award in the mini-bus category.



**Paul Klimesh tackles the Rear Duals Clearance event.
Note: No tennis balls were injured as he successfully negotiated this challenge.**



Kevin Gries backs up in the Left hand Reverse event.

CyRide Receives 2012 State of Good Repair Award: The Federal Transit Administration officially announced the awards for the 2012 State of Good Repair and Bus Livability national discretionary funding grants on July 23, 2012. CyRide was one of 255 projects approved for funding out of a total of 836 applications submitted from transit agencies around the nation. Des Moines DART was the only other transit system in Iowa to receive discretionary funding. For an entire list of State of Good Repair, Bus Livability and Transit Asset Management grants awarded, please visit http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/12322_14745.html

Specifically, CyRide received \$2,031,840 in federal funding to replace six large buses within our fleet. This funding will be matched with 17% local funding. The buses to replace are four 1997 Gillig Phantoms (739, 740, 741 and 743) and two 1989 Orion V's (963 & 965). We will keep you apprised of when the new vehicles will be purchased in later Signals issues. (Shari A. & Sheri K.)

Alternatives Analysis Update: At the June 2012 Transit Board meeting, members voted to develop a scope of work to hire a consultant to assist staff in studying the Orange Route. There are numerous questions that staff and board members came up with to look at for this route so that it can operate as efficiently as possible. The #23 Orange Route is the busiest route in the State of Iowa and has grown an average of 3.7% each year for the past seven years. With strong ISU enrollment predicted for the next several years and with the route at near capacity, all participants believe now is the time to hire a consult to help us determine how to best operate this route in the near and long-term. Some of the questions raised that will be addressed by this study are:

- What percentage of the Orange Route ridership comes from in-town rides that could have taken another CyRide route?
- What amenities/technology should be planned to provide CyRide customers with a better quality ride on this route – real-time bus signage, covered bus stops, etc.
- With ridership increasing an average of 3.7% each year, how do we continue to provide a quality level of service when buses are currently at standing room capacity and two minutes apart during peak times?
- How do we reduce bus congestion on campus when enrollment and demand for CyRide continues to increase? As the Orange route significantly contributes to this congestion do buses need to be separated, rerouted?
- Should incentives or disincentives be provided on this route in light of parking policies at ISU?
- How do we address the parking infrastructure challenges at the ISU Center/Park & Ride?
- How do the two articulated buses work on the Orange route and would additional articulated buses provide more benefit?
- Does Ames-ISU see a benefit for an enhanced BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) route? If so, how could it be funded and what would it look like?

The study will be funded 80% by a federal grant (\$160,000) for a total cost of \$200,000. It is anticipated that it can begin around the holidays and be completed by the end of the school year. (Sheri K.)

Ames Intermodal Facility Update – (Police License Agreement & Intermodal Ramp Opening Delays):

The Intermodal Facility has experienced a few changes since the ribbon-cutting on June 9th. First, the facility was to be open to the public for parking shortly after the ribbon-cutting event; however, significant issues with both stairs were found during the final inspection, just prior to opening the facility. As a result, engineers have been working on this issue to try to “shore up” the stairs. At this time, a date has not been set for opening of the ramp and surface lot. However, the terminal area is open and available for customers to use the Executive Express, Jefferson and Burlington Trailways services.

Also, the City of Ames Police Department indicated an interest in sharing the Intermodal Facility’s Management office during the evening and early morning hours for their Safe Neighborhoods Team. License Agreements have been drafted for their use of this area, which was approved by the Ames City Council on July 24, 2012. With this approval, their use of this space should occur in the next several weeks and increase security in and around the facility. (Sheri K.)

Labor Management Committee: CyRide drivers and managers along with Human Resources and Union officials will be developing a CyRide Labor-Management Committee to informally discuss topics of interest. The first meeting will be held to set up the parameters of the committee and develop topics for the first meeting. This meeting will be held on Monday, July 30th. (Sheri K.)

OPERATIONS:

Safe Driver Awards for 2012: CyRide drivers show that we are safe on the road every day. Since January 2012 the following drivers have earned Safe Driver Awards from the National Safety Council and CyRide. The 1 Million Mile and 2 Million Mile awards are earned after 25,000 hours and 50,000 hours of driving without a preventable accident respectively. CyRide added the local award for safe drivers with 1,040 hours as we believe that to be quite an accomplishment. Congratulations to all 39 awardees below! Great Job! All Safe Driver Award drivers are pictured with their years of safe driving in the hallway by Dispatch. (Karen)

John Packwood	2 Million Mile Award	Barbie Hoskin	2 Million Mile Award
Phil Hodges	2 Million Mile Award	Nathan Shimanek	1 Million Mile Award

Bruce Wilder	27 yrs.	Pat Hansen	5 yrs.	Jake Comstock	1 yr.
John Botten	26yrs.	Yvette Gahring	4 yrs.	Chris Davidson	1 yr.
Chris Williams	22 yrs.	Dennis Holland	3 yrs.	Tony Mendicino	1 yr.
Glenn Crosswait	20 yrs.	Kevin Gries	3 yrs.	Natasha Harsh	1 yr.
John Sorbo	17 yrs.	Dave Coe	2 yrs.	Matthew Mottet	1 yr.
Randy Lien	16 yrs.	Kirk Langas	2 yrs.	Max Siglin	1,040 hrs.
Paul Klimesh	15 yrs.	Ralph Jones	1 yr.	Becky Soukup	1,040 hrs.
Deb Damstrom	13 yrs.	Bruce Hanway	1 yr.	Andrew Gulliver	1,040 hrs.
Eric Williamson	12 yrs.	Chuck Pille	1 yr.	Jesse Wolf	1,040 hrs.
Mark Debner	11 yrs.	Matt Kennedy	1 yr.	Greg Fuqua	1,040 hrs.
Tedd Devick	9 yrs.	Michael McCall	1 yr.	Jeff Graney	1,040 hrs.
Eric Ollie	7 yrs.	Adam Duke	1 yr.		

Time Off Reminder: This is just a reminder that CyRide does not guarantee time off for the first two weeks of the fall semester. CyRide will have some open runs during this time so it would be a good time to pick up extra hours.

Gate Cards: The ISU Department of Public Safety will be activating the gates on Osborn Drive before the start of Iowa State's fall semester. When you drive up to the gates, you will see a black square (about a foot square) mounted on a cement monolith. This black square is the card reader. You need only hold your vehicle's card up to the reader to activate the gate. The card readers should be able to read your card once it is within 18-24 inches of the reader. During the week of August 13-17, each CyRide vehicle will be issued a gate card that will stay within that vehicle (cards will be attached to a lanyard that will be attached on or near the front door handle). Drivers should ensure that they have their vehicle's gate card when starting or taking over a shift. Report lost cards immediately in order for a replacement to be obtained.

Additionally, new automatic gate openers (limited quantity) have been ordered and will be installed on a few of CyRide's buses in the next few months. This new device would open the Osborn gates automatically as a CyRide bus approaches. Keep your eyes open for a CyRide memo with additional details.

Does Anyone Require a Transfer? Drivers must communicate with each other to ensure that their passengers make connections when a transfer is required. When drivers arrive at a transfer point on time, there is no need to call transfers over the radio. If drivers are expected to arrive at a transfer point one or two minutes late, they must notify the driver of the connecting bus. If drivers expect to be late arriving at a transfer point and no transfers have been requested, they should use their PA system to ask passengers whether anyone needs a transfer. If no passengers need to transfer at this time, drivers should notify other drivers so they can leave on time.

Fall Meetings: The annual fall meetings are scheduled for next month. Drivers can sign up for the meeting of their choice. We will be discussing our service to our customers, performance trends, and other items of interest. Bring your questions and comments to the meetings.

Change of Address: If you have moved over the summer be sure to fill out a change of address form. You can get these forms from the Dispatchers and then please return them to Dispatch after filling them out.

HIRING AND TRAINING:

SAFETY ISSUE – Kids Crossing in Front of the Bus: Please ensure that when children depart your bus that they do not cross in front of your vehicle (especially when transferring from one bus to another across a busy street). Children should move to the rear of the bus so they can see oncoming traffic. If necessary, have small children exit the bus through the front doors in order for you to better determine where they are. With school starting this month, we will have many new and unfamiliar "little riders." Please be careful!

Many New Faces: Perhaps you have noticed a lot of new faces on the picture board this summer. CyRide has hired approximately nine drivers this summer to gear up for fall! Specifically, the following drivers have joined CyRide's team between mid-May to June 25th: Mary Oehler, James Swider, Sean Bunn, Val Hedlund, Charles Long, Aleksey Kostyushko, Don Knowles, Taylor Webber and Dan Strodtman. Take a minute to welcome our newest CyRide employees aboard!

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Bus Delivery Update: New bus production dates are subject to adjustment. The following are the most recent build dates available for the CyRide buses on order:

- **Articulated buses (60-foot)** – Two buses have been ordered from [Nova Bus](#). The buses are scheduled to start production August 22nd and be delivered in October 2012. Nova uses an outside company to paint the buses and the long production schedule is due to a bottleneck with Nova's paint contractor.
- **Large 40-foot Buses (40-foot)** – The five 40' standard diesel buses on order from [Gillig](#) are scheduled to start production on September 24th. The last bus to be completed is scheduled to ship October 12th.
- **Small LD Buses (2)** – Two new minibuses were ordered the second week of July and we are awaiting information on their production date. They will be [Glaval](#) buses on GM chassis. Glaval buses were selected due to their reinforced roof construction. It is hoped that they will be less prone to the cracking CyRide has experienced on other models. GM chassis were selected to see how they compare to the existing Ford chassis for reliability. (Rich L.)

Fall Bus Preparation: Maintenance will soon be getting buses stored for the summer ready for fall service, including the customary fall cleaning. A bus cleaning sign-up sheet has been posted for drivers looking for additional hours. (Rich L.)

Mini-Bus Driver Seats: Maintenance has received replacement seats for the remaining five 2010 mini-buses. The shop will work on getting them installed as soon as we can, but will be having new covers stitched for them before this installation. (James R.)

Tire Recall: This spring, Michelin recalled 77,000+ tires that are used on transit vehicles. The recall was for first-run and recap tires made during a 5 year span. CyRide has about 350 of these recalled tires and the shop has been working hard at changing them all out with our goal of being done before school starts. The reason for the Michelin recall is "rapid air loss to the tire." CyRide has not seen this issue with any of our tires. (James R.)

Cybrid Fleet Update – Voith, our hybrid transmission manufacturer, was here the week of July 16th and fixed a couple issues with our hybrids. They also loaded a new software program on four of our buses (420, 423, 431 and 432) that will hopefully help with the major power loss at starts. Voith discovered a bug in their code that would sometimes not disengage the e-motor causing a lot of extra force for the engine to overcome while trying to accelerate. This software is a trial on these four buses as we want to ensure it doesn't cause other issues before we load it to all of the hybrids. Please write up your experiences with these trial buses, the good and bad, so we can decide whether the new software should be installed on all of the hybrids. (James R.)