



January 17, 2014

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Bikes/Pedestrian/Longboard Safety on Campus Update: The group working on bike/pedestrian/longboard (skateboard) concerns is continuing to work on ways to educate students on campus safety. In a meeting in early January the following was approved.

An ISU Marketing class has been contacted to make this project part of their class work for the Spring semester. The exact nature of their involvement is still being discussed, but it is hoped that they can create a full-blown campaign to address the issue on several fronts. Below are the parameters that the group developed to have the class consider:

- **Campaign Theme:** "Think of the Impact You Can Make" – This is a national campaign on bike safety that has basic material with which to begin the project.
- **Modes of Transportation Targeted:** Bikes, pedestrians and cars.
- **Corridor To Be Addressed:** Osborn Drive.
- **Approach:** Two-pronged – education material and personal reinforcement (Ex. – Cy give candy to people that are using the crosswalk).
- **Branding:** An identifiable logo or materials that will immediately let students recognize the campaign and identify with it.

The campaign will be divided into two timeframes: Immediate and Fall 2014. The immediate campaign will occur sometime in February and will focus on interior bus advertisements or flyers located on the panel behind the drivers as well as a social media campaign. The larger campaign will begin once the class project is completed and will be incorporated into June orientation sessions, Welcome Back activities and throughout the Fall semester.

The committee recognizes this is a large challenge and one that will be on-going as student turnover occurs. (Sheri K.)

Gate Puck Update: Iowa State just informed CyRide this morning that the gate pucks, ordered in early November, have arrived! The gate pucks automatically open up the gate arms on ISU campus (as opposed to using the gate cards), hopefully speeding up the time to get through the Osborn corridor. Once we pick them up, we will begin installing them on the rest of bus fleet within the next week or two. (Sheri K.)

Ames-Des Moines Study: A planning group in Des Moines has hired a consultant to inventory existing trips between Ames-Ankeny-Des Moines and to determine if additional/different services would attract more people commuting in the corridor to take public transportation. They will look at various options such as carpool and vanpool services as well as more traditional bus service. The study began in December and it is anticipated that their recommendation will be developed later this year. Shari Atwood and Sheri Kyras are part of the committee to provide CyRide-Ames input. (Sheri K.)

Passenger Surveys: The Ames Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to develop a long range, 20-year, transportation plan (LRTP) and update this plan every five years, which also includes transit. This group is beginning this 18-month process and has decided to include “mode split” into their computer modeling data this time around. What this means for CyRide is that this model of the trips taken throughout Ames will take into account the number of people riding transit as opposed to lumping all trips in Ames together to just automobile travel. With this comes some special surveying of CyRide customers that a consultant will be conducting during the spring semester – possibly as early as February. The consultant’s employees will board the bus and will ask our customers questions about their trip. They are still in the process of determining how and at what time of the day this will occur; therefore, as more information is available, staff will post a memo(s) on this to keep employees updated. (Sheri K.)

OPERATIONS

Interior Temperature of Your Bus: As the weather continues to stay cold we should talk a little about the interior bus temperatures. All buses heat differently providing more heat to some areas than others. Drivers should frequently walk through the bus to monitor the temperature of the passenger seating area as well as referring to the interior thermometer. During winter, drivers will maintain their passenger compartment temperatures between 65-68 degrees F. This insures that passengers in

winter clothing do not become uncomfortable. If the heater does not raise the temperature to this comfort range, the dispatcher should be notified. (Jenny and Rob)

Tough Snow Warning: When curbing your bus, be on the lookout for the piles of accumulated snow that will exist at the edges of the street. The freeze-thaw cycle and road chemicals will turn this once fluffy material into something akin to concrete. Adequately survey the situation when stopping and ensure there is enough room between your bus and any snow. Hitting a frozen snow bank is a preventable accident. Striking this glacier-like substance damaged several mini-bus step wells last year. (Jenny and Rob)

Parking Buses Outside in Cold Weather: As a reminder, when the outside temperature is 20 degrees F or colder, keep your diesel bus idling when parking it on the curb or in the employee lot. You should shut off the 4-ways and auxiliary heater (webasto), but keep the heater and the front windshield defrosters on to prevent window fogging. This procedure will prevent diesel fuel from gelling and clogging fuel lines and fuel filters. (Jenny and Rob)

Placards: Effective January 1st, front window number placards no longer need to be displayed on your bus. The shop will remove these placards in 2014 during routine maintenance inspections. (Jenny and Rob)

HIRING AND TRAINING

The Glam on Grit: Grit is not to be applied to the steps and aisles of CyRide buses to prevent passengers from slipping. Grit can only be applied outside your bus to improve passenger and bus traction at slick bus stops. Grit causes severe damage to wheelchair lift/ramp mechanisms and bus flooring, and is considered an inhalation hazard when used inside buses because of its silica content. Drivers will need to be extra careful in preventing the buildup of snow and ice on steps and aisles. Frequent use of your ice scraper and brush to clear snow from these areas will prevent passengers from falling. (George and Tom)

Winter Safety Reminder: Drivers, if you should run over an object that could or has caused harm or damage to your bus, please stop your bus immediately and inspect it for damage. Stopping your bus immediately will prevent further damage from occurring. As always, keep the dispatcher informed of your condition and status. (George and Tom)

Perfecting Your Skills “Setup Turns”

Setting up turns is an important skill at CyRide. It allows us to make tight turns while keeping our right side protected from vehicle intrusions. Most of us know the mechanics of a setup turn: checking our mirror before setting up, starting the setup 25’ from the intersection, turning the wheel back when you can see down the curb line. What is easy to forget is the critical role that speed plays in a setup turn. To be done effectively, they must be done SLOWLY. If a setup turn is done too quickly, the right side of the bus is moved away from the curb line as though you were performing a lane change. As you can imagine, if you allow enough room for a car to enter the space between you and the curb as you are proceeding around the corner, a serious collision can result. Next time you do a setup turn; carefully watch your right mirror to see how far away from the curb your rear tire travels. If you find yourself too far from the curb, try slowing down your turn. (Tom and George)

FLEET AND FACILITIES:

Ready for Occupancy: The new bus storage addition was ready for occupancy on January 10, 2014. However; even though buses are parked inside the new addition, the contractor still has a lot of finishing work left to complete on the project. Please remain cautious in and around the building as this work continues.

The bus storage addition has radiant in-floor heat that circulates over 1,000 gallons of glycol mix. The glycol mix is heated to temperature with heat pumps located in the second floor mechanical room above lane 13. Water from the cooling tower acts as the thermal source for the heat pumps. Large heaters for each overhead door have been designed to fire when doors are opened in the winter. The hot air from these large heaters acts as an air curtain to minimize the loss of heat during the winter. There are also three new roof HVAC units located over the original storage area. When operational, these new units should improve the air quality throughout the storage area during peak operational times.

Remaining flood mitigation work will continue as weather permits. Landscaping will be the final portion of the construction work completed when warm weather returns in the spring. (Rich L.)

Thank You: A big thank you to all of the drivers that helped clean buses over break. You did a great job cleaning the buses in less than ideal conditions. (Rich L.)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE CHIRPS AND CLIPS:

CyRide Soup Day: "2014 Soup Day" date is yet to be decided by the Breakroom Committee, which gives each of you time to pull out the cookbooks, maybe a secret family recipe, or concoct your own special soup recipe. The added bonus for the day is the numerous treats to complement the soups. Notices will be posted on bulletin boards and around the facility to notify employees when the CyRide 14th Annual Soup Day will be held so stay tuned to Channel CYRIDE for the announcement! (Breakroom Committee members: Ray Coffey, James Crabb, John Cramer, Yvette Gahring, Karen Goodman, Helen Meyerhoff, Donna Olson, Tim Thien, John Vachris, and Joanne Van Dyke.)