



November 19, 2014

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Orange Route Study: Some of you might remember that CyRide began a study back in early 2013 to look at how to improve the Orange route service in light of significant growth over the years and predicted ridership increases in the future. To date, the following activities have been completed:

- Definition of the Problem/Study Purpose
- Identification of possible alternatives
- Public Input Meeting
- Narrowing of the alternatives
- Data Collection/Analysis:
 - 1) Passenger count by bus stop,
 - 2) Commuter lot passenger survey,
 - 3) Classroom activity by building,
 - 4) Osborn Drive vehicle count by type of vehicle, and
 - 5) Orange route statistics

The possible route alternatives that remain include the following:

- All articulated buses on the route.
- Dividing the route into two separate routes - express route from ISU Center lot and one beginning/ending at Maple-Willow-Larch.
- Bus Rapid Transit route, fewer stops, signal priority, enhanced bus stops to board passengers faster, etc.
- Streetcar – same as Bus Rapid Transit only with a dedicated right-of-way with an electrified vehicle with overhead wires.

Last fall, the study was temporarily halted to give Iowa State University administration time to discuss Osborn Drive congestion and to determine if any changes would be proposed that would impact the alternatives that had been selected for further public input and study. A year later there is still not a clear direction with regards to Osborn Drive; but the Federal Transit Administration, whom is financing the project 80%, is anxious for CyRide to complete the study. Therefore, CyRide will begin work on the study in January 2015 to gain public input on the remaining alternatives in the hopes that the preferred alternative will be selected and the study completed by the end of the spring semester. With this aggressive timeline, the final report should be completed by August 2015. (Sheri K.)

November Transit Board Meeting: The transit board members had a 3-4 hour work session on Saturday, November 15th. This session was held to help determine a service level philosophy to guide discussions on additional services, agree on how the three local funding partners (Iowa State University, City of Ames and students) will share in the costs to provide CyRide service in the future (as students comprise 90% of the rides and 65% of the local funding needed to support existing service), and establish ways to address growth in our transit system in general. The board has been struggling with these issues for almost a year and with budget decisions for the next school year approaching, they held this special meeting to work through these issues. While there was substantial discussion over the course of the meeting, there was virtually no change to the service level philosophy of how CyRide currently operates or cost share between the three local funding partners. CyRide's next board meeting is December 4th at 8:00 a.m. where the capital and operating budgets for FY2016 will be discussed. This meeting as well as all other board meetings is open to the public as well as employees to attend. (Sheri K.)

GSB Meeting on Campus Growth and Enrollment: The Government of the Student Body (GSB) met with ISU President Leath and senior members of ISU's Administration to discuss the impact that recent record university enrollment has had on their student experience at Iowa State. I had a chance to listen to their conversation and here is what I took away from the discussion regarding CyRide. While students would prefer to have a seat or fewer people on the bus, I did not hear an overall theme that CyRide was any more of an issue than other services such as Student Health, dining facilities, testing facilities or student housing and, unfortunately, I did not hear students say that they would be willing to pay more in student fees to CyRide to address the issue. Right now, there is a general feeling that everything connected with Iowa State University is too busy or crowded.

One question I get a lot is if I have heard if ISU will "cap" its enrollment to try to address overcrowding. In this meeting President Leath explained why they cannot cap enrollment stating that ISU is a land-grant university and one of the requirements of a land-grant university, by Iowa law, is that it has to allow any Iowa resident that meets the state's academic requirements to attend ISU. He indicated that they can cap non-resident enrollment, but that the university believes that these individuals strengthen the student experience through their diversity of thought and cultures as students interact in class, clubs, etc. and, therefore, are not willing to cap this portion of its enrollment. As a result, the predictions are for ISU to grow one or two more years and then stabilize as the University of Iowa and Northern Iowa become more aggressive in trying to attract Iowa residents to their colleges.

The impact these thoughts have for CyRide, if they are correct, are that CyRide is about at the peak of its ridership increases and it can begin to slow its growth and stabilize ridership, which means the number of buses and drivers needed to provide daily service. If this occurs, this would be a positive for CyRide and allow everyone to "catch" up to the current enrollment/ridership level and work on ways to impact the quality of services to not only meet student demand, but to address our daily work as well. (Sheri K.)

ADMINISTRATION

Safe Driver Awards: The following drivers have earned the Safe Driver Award from the National Safety Council or the CyRide Safe Driver Award since January 2014. The National Safety Council award is earned for one year by driving 2,080 hours without a preventable collision as judged by the Safety Committee. The CyRide award is earned after 1,040 hours with no preventable collisions. **Congratulations to all !!** (Karen)

Phil Hodges	28 yrs.	Matt Kennedy	1 yr.
John Botten	27 yrs.	Jacob Lick	1 yr.
John Packwood	25 yrs.	Bill Bagnall	1 yr.
Glenn Crosswait	22 yrs.	Grant Olson	1 yr.
John Sorbo	19 yrs.	Kathy Marshall	1 yr.
Paul Klimesh	17 yrs.	Greg Fuqua	1 yr.
Karen Goodman	15 yrs.	Derek Friedow	1 yr.
Deb Damstrom	14 yrs.	Tim Thien	1 yr.
David Safina	14 yrs.	Christina Elliott	1 yr.
Tedd Devick	1 Million Mile Award	Brian Dennis	1,040 hrs.
Adam Wiederholt	10 yrs.	Ryan Brennecke	1,040 hrs.
Eric Ollie	9 yrs.	Sam Rohrer	1,040 hrs.
Pat Hansen	7 yrs.	Andrew Ragusi	1,040 hrs.
Tim Baldrige	6 yrs.	Myrle Tjelta	1,040 hrs.
Ron Sewald	5 yrs.	Kim Rasmusson	1,040 hrs.
Kevin Gries	5 yrs.	Craig Sheehy	1,040 hrs.
Dave Coe	4 yrs.	Nick Buettner	1,040 hrs.
Nick Shimanek	4 yrs.	Heidi Kalina	1,040 hrs.
Jason Lippard	3 yrs.	Katie McNulty	1,040 hrs.
Kirk Langas	3 yrs.	Gibson Akers	1,040 hrs.
Natasha Harsh	3 yrs.	Sara Scheiding	1,040 hrs.
Chris Lumley	3 yrs.	Sterling Lipscomb	1,040 hrs.
Dave Massarini	2 yrs.	Levi Faas	1,040 hrs.
Tedd Mathews	2 yrs.	Gabe Wohlers	1,040 hrs.
Becky Soukup	2 yrs.	Alex Maurer	1,040 hrs.
Ashley Mathews	2 yrs.	Mike Hlavacek	1,040 hrs.
Charles Long	2 yrs.	T.C. Dieckmann	1,040 hrs.
Tim Onstot	2 yrs.	Paula Crippen	1,040 hrs.
Felicia Wilson	1 yr.	Ruth Hines	1,040 hrs.

Flu Shots: Sixty employees got their flu shots on October 16th when they were offered here at CyRide. That is up three employees from last year. If you missed flu shot day you can still get one at the following walk in locations. Just tell them you are a city employee. (Karen)

- Medicap 105 Lincoln Way, Ames
- NuCara 2709 Northridge Pkwy, Ames
521 Broad Street, Story City
1002 5th Street, Nevada

Questions about Mandatory Shifts during Run Pick: In a recent Labor Management Committee (LMC) meeting, questions about whether all drivers were required to take mandatory shifts, as listed below*, if they had fewer than 1750 hours of seniority arose. The mandatory shift requirements are in place to better manage the daily work and provide the best service we can to the Ames community. There are however instances where CyRide amends these requirements due to special situations with individual drivers. For instance, if a new hires' schedule cannot initially accommodate all the requirements, the expectation is that they meet the requirements in the next run pick. After explaining some of the extenuating circumstances to the members of the LMC committee they were much more comfortable in exceptions being made to these requirements. If you have an issue or concern with a policy or your own work assignment please talk to Tom B, George, Jenny, Rob or Barb about your concerns. (Barb)

*On Calls, OWD, MLX, Weekend shifts, and Football/VEISHEA extras.

OPERATIONS

Winter Driving Tips: We've all heard the saying "there are two seasons in Iowa – road construction and winter." Most years it seems that way. Iowa's snow season typically runs from November through early March.

The following tips will help in reducing the chances of becoming involved in a weather-related accident.

- * Report for work rested and alert.
- * Do a thorough pre-trip inspection. Make sure you have de-icing fluid, an ice scraper, and window cleaner.
- * Slow down. The posted speed limit may **not** be a safe speed to travel at during inclement weather. Remember safety before schedule.
- * Give yourself more stopping distance, about 15-20 feet before where you would usually stop. Bridges and shady spots can be icy when other areas are not. Avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
- * Turn off the transmission retarder if the bus is equipped with one.

Snow and ice create hazards for our passengers as well. The following tips can help reduce the chances of our passengers having an accident.

- * Turn your four ways on early so the passenger knows you see them at the stop.
- * Approach the stop cautiously and allow extra clearance on the right side, if necessary.
- * Choose the boarding and de-boarding area carefully. If there is snow at the bus stop, select another area such as a sidewalk or driveway. If the sidewalk is icy or snow covered, give the passengers warning of the condition before they exit. If there is not a clear location keep a clearance of three to five feet from the snow bank so that passengers can use the street for boarding and de-boarding. Do not move the bus until all people are safely away from the bus. Check your mirrors carefully to make sure the area is clear.
- * If your bus steps are snow or ice covered, scrape/brush the snow/ice off these steps.
- * Monitor the interior temperature of the bus for the comfort of the passengers.

(Rob and Jenny)

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 circulation lane 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. (Rob and Jenny)

Holiday Time Off: With the approaching holidays, staff will be working with many requests for time off. Please be sure to check carefully if your requests have been covered **before you leave**. Talk to dispatchers Jen Strohm or Seth Pace if you have any questions about a shift being covered. Simply submitting a request does not mean it is automatically covered.

Sign-up sheets will be posted for the holiday break schedule. If you are interested in working extra hours, you can sign up on those sheets and you will be assigned some extra hours according to your seniority.

Also, be sure that you know your schedule for the holidays. A memo will be posted explaining the holiday schedule. If you have any questions about when you work, talk to Jen or Seth. (Rob and Jenny)

HIRING AND TRAINING

Spring 2015 Run Pick: We will hold Spring Run Pick December 8-10 (after students have had a chance to pick their spring semester classes.) Run Pick is for drivers who will have conflicts with their current work schedule due to spring semester classes. Runs from drivers that have conflicts as well as all runs that are currently open will be made available in the run pick. You will be able to choose new runs from these available runs. You can only drop runs that conflict with new spring classes. Drivers will choose their new runs based on seniority as of October 31, 2014. (Tom B. and George)

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. (Tom B. and George)

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Buses and More Buses: CyRide received \$2.55 million in discretionary funding under the Ladders of Opportunity Program for four articulated buses to expand our fleet. The next steps are finding options under another transit system that CyRide can utilize to procure these additional four articulated buses or to develop our own specifications for the procurement. CyRide will first try to obtain available Nova Bus options from Austin, Texas. (Rich)

Purchase of Additional Used Minnesota Buses: CyRide purchased ten used buses from Minnesota this summer. Five of those are in service with the next three being made ready for the spring semester. The remaining two buses will be used for spare parts.

During the week of October 27th, CyRide purchased five additional Minnesota buses. The buses are 2002 Gilligs and we will start working on getting them ready for service as soon as the previously mentioned group of three is ready. (Rich)

New Gillig Buses: Six NEW Gillig buses are expected to be delivered in the spring of 2015! A new driver's seat was selected based on driver input. Manufactured by USSC, the model G2A is adjustable in the thigh area and features a full height seat back. It will also be equipped with a shoulder belt that drivers can use based on their personal preference. The six buses will also feature adjustable foot pedals.

We took a thorough look at available rear door options from the perspective of decreasing rear door cycle time. I'm sorry to report we were unable to identify any quicker way of closing the rear doors given the size of the doors we specify and the required safety mechanisms. So, the rear doors and sonar actuation will remain unchanged from previous orders. (Rich)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE CORNER

CyRide Holiday Party: Mark your calendar as Friday, December 12 is the date for the 2014 CyRide Holiday Party from 9:00am until 5:00pm. The Breakroom Committee has not finalized "all" details so watch for posters.

The holiday party will follow the same format as last year's with CyRide furnishing the meat and the Breakroom Committee furnishing potatoes/stuffing, gravy, and hot apple cider. The committee asks each employee to bring a side dish (main dish, vegetable, salad, appetizer, dessert) to share with your co-workers. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of your co-workers, friends, and family, and share the many delicacies of the holiday season furnished by our employees. (Joanne)

We value you "the employee(s)" support and suggestions.

The BRC members: Ray Coffey, James Crabb, John Cramer, Yvette Gahring, Karen Goodman, Dave Happe, Donna Olson, Tim Thien, John Vachris, and Joanne Van Dyke.