



February 20, 2015

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Service Changes and Capital Purchases for 2015-2016: At CyRide's Board of Trustees December 4, 2014 meeting, the Board discussed and approved the 2015-2016 Operating and Capital budgets. As a result, the following service changes will begin in August 2015:

- Five additional hours of service/day (add extra buses for additional student demand)
- #4B Gray Route – Improve route frequency to 20 minute service between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. from ISU campus to S. 16th/S. Duff.

In addition, the following 14 projects were approved within CyRide's Capital Plan to be purchased between July 2015-June 2016. For additional details regarding these purchases, please visit www.cyride.com and view the December 2014 packet under About CyRide/Board of Trustees/Board Meeting Packets & Minutes. (Sheri K.)

	Replace/ Expand	Qty	Federal	Local	Total
1 Used 40' Buses	Rep/Exp	5	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
2 Artic (Pre-production travel)			\$ 1,700	\$ 300	\$ 2,000
3 Prius	Rep	1	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
4 DAR Bus	Rep	1	\$ 73,950	\$ 13,050	\$ 87,000
5 HVAC Units	Rep	3		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
6 Concrete (east end of facility)	Rep			\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Architectural/Engineering (HVAC, bus hoist, separator 7 pits design, cost estimates)				\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
8 Bus hoists	Rep	4		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
9 Separator Pits	Rep	7	\$ 300,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 375,000
10 Computers	Rep	7	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Shop Equipment (west end work space/fueling bay lighting, 11 diesel particulate filter system	Rep		\$ -	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000
12 Bus stop Improvements	Exp/Rep		\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000
13 Bus security camera systems	Rep/Exp	5	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Building Security (secure 14 shop/perimeter of building)	Exp		\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
TOTAL			\$ 415,650	\$ 600,350	\$ 1,016,000

Orange Route Alternatives Analysis Update: Recently CyRide staff held an open house style public meeting to gain input on three possible alternatives to improve the Orange Route – placing all articulated buses on the route, splitting the route and creating a bus rapid transit route (see CyRide’s website for more details on these three options). More than 100 people stopped by the meeting to understand the options and provide their suggestions. A survey was also developed to provide input and to vote on the alternatives that would provide the greatest benefit for their trips. CyRide received 292 votes, with the results as follows:

- All articulated buses – 42%
- Splitting route – 37%
- Bus Rapid Transit – 21%

The Orange Route committee, comprised of city, ISU and CyRide, will now identify a “preferred alternative” for recommendation to the Transit Board of Trustees. Grant Olsen is representing the drivers on this committee, so if you have any suggestions, please relay these to Grant or myself.

The committee is expected to complete their work in April, with the Transit Board deciding which option to pursue. The alternative chosen will then be considered in the fall 2015, along with all other changes needed to provide service beginning in the fall 2016. (Sheri K.)

ADMINISTRATION

Outstanding Performance Awards: Congratulations to the following drivers who earned the Outstanding Performance Award for 2014. The criteria for this award are:

No preventable accidents	No complaints
No reprimands or suspensions	No violations or accidents on state driving record
Sick leave at 2.5% or below	No lates

Glenn Crosswait	22 yrs.	Ted Mathews IV	2 yrs.
David Safina	13 yrs.	Nick Shimanek	2 yrs.
Paul Klimesh	11 yrs.	Dan Strodman	2 yrs.
John Packwood	11 yrs.	Gibson Akers	1 yr.
Nathan Shimanek	10 yrs.	Roger Brown	1 yr.
Adam Wiederholt	10 yrs.	Nick Buettner	1 yr.
Chris Williams	10 yrs.	James Crabb	1 yr.
Ray Coffey	7 yrs.	Brian Crouse	1 yr.
Kevin Gries	5 yrs.	Adam Duke	1 yr.
Ron Pool	5 yrs.	Greg Fuqua	1 yr.
Ralph Jones	4 yrs.	Kim Rasmusson	1 yr.
Tim Baldrige	3 yrs.	Laurel Scott	1 yr.
Pat Hansen	3 yrs.	Jim Sogard	1 yr.
Phil Lombardo	3 yrs.	Anasia Sturdivant	1 yr.
Chris Lumley	3 yrs.	Tim Thien	1 yr.
Charles Long	2 yrs.	Kurt Turner	1 yr.

Other successes in this area were:

- 38 drivers met 5 of the criteria
- 16 drives met 4 of the criteria
- 5 drivers met 3 of the criteria
- 5 drivers met 2 of the criteria
- 3 drivers met 1 of the criteria

Out of the 32 drivers who earned the Outstanding Performance Award this year, 12 of them had a perfect record in all criteria which includes 0% sick leave. Of the drivers who met some but not all of the criteria, 11 had 0% sick leave for 2014. (Karen J.)

CyRide Accidents: One of our priorities is “Safety First.” With that said, the beginning of the 2015 year has challenged this priority with a higher number of accidents than are typical for this time of year. Specifically, in January, CyRide employees were involved in 9 collisions for a total of \$6,945.41 in damage. Eight of these were preventable and 1 was unreported. All of the eight preventable collisions occurred between two CyRide vehicles and all but 2 happened out on the road, not in the garage.

In February thus far, we have been involved in 3 preventable collisions and 3 unreported collisions for a total of \$1,933.49 in damage. Of the three preventable collisions, two were buses hitting snow banks and one occurred between two CyRide vehicles.

The number of preventable and unreported accidents is a reminder for all drivers to always keep focused, expect the unexpected when driving, cover your brake and stop to get help if there is any question about a situation, particularly on bad weather days. And, always report all collisions immediately. Our goal through the end of June is no more than 50 preventable accidents. (Karen J.)

Long Range Transportation Plan 2040 Update

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) is updating its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that establishes a vision for transportation in the City of Ames, portions of the City of Gilbert, Boone County and Story County over the next 25 years. The AAMPO Policy Committee which approves the LRTP consists of voting representatives from these organizations as well as CyRide. The LRTP will identify projects that will improve mobility, accessibility and safety of the roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and freight systems in the Ames area.

This is the first year that the Ames MPO's travel demand model will include transit which is also the first for any MPO within the State of Iowa. If you recall, an origin-destination study was conducted in October 2014 that will help this transit modeling effort. Past models for the LRTP was based solely on where vehicles were traveling. Since CyRide now carries approximately 40,000 passengers each day for 9 months of the year, only looking at where vehicles travel (excluding buses) is not a correct representation of the travel demand model. How trips occur within a traffic analysis zone (TAZ) are then estimated based on how many homes and attractions are within a zone. We will be adding in the specific origin/destination data obtained in October 2014 based on the number of passengers CyRide serves throughout the year. From this, we can then estimate the average daily traffic volumes on the roadways on a given day, project future transit demand and whether the roadway facilities can handle

projected traffic volumes. The model will help to illustrate roadways, intersections and corridors that will likely experience congestion or capacity issues in the future. From there projects can be suggested in areas experiencing congestion/capacity issues that will impact the transportation system in the best manner possible to provide an adequate level of service throughout the community on all transportation modes.

The AAMPO will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at the Ames Public Library from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. to share the travel demand model and garner public input about the type of projects to place within the plan. If you are interested in providing your insights in how transportation should develop and where funding resources should be directed for the future, please attend this meeting. This plan is slated to be complete by October 2015. For more information go to www.amesmobility2040.com, where you can also submit your ideas. (Shari A.)

OPERATIONS

Driver Run Pick Dates: Summer and Fall 2015 run picks will be on the following dates:

- Summer Full Time: March 31-April 3
- Summer Part Time: April 9-17
- Fall Full Time: April 10-15
- Fall Part Time: April 21-30

There will be handouts for the newer drivers along with posted information on the bulletin boards as to how run pick works and what to expect. Check the hallway bulletin board near the break room for the latest run pick news. (Tom B. & George S.)

Thunderstorms and Tornadoes: Late spring in Iowa heralds the arrival of severe weather. During severe weather, the dispatcher will monitor weather radio, internet, and television broadcasts and will notify drivers of dangerous conditions. Drivers should notify dispatch if they must stop due to poor visibility caused by heavy rain or hail. Drivers should also call dispatch for instructions if a detour is required due to street flooding, downed tree limbs, power lines, etc.

In the event of a tornado warning, drivers should stop the bus in a safe location. Drivers should then direct their passengers to the nearest building for shelter. If a building is unavailable, drivers should instruct their passengers to stay on the bus and remain below window level. Once the sirens have stopped, drivers should contact dispatch for further instructions. (Dorothy and Toto; aka Tom and George)

School Tours: It is that time of year, CyRide will be helping pre-school and grade school students become better bus riders. CyRide offers two individual programs: a Pre-Riders program designed for younger children and an Independent Riders program designed for older children. Each program includes a bus wash, safety talk, and several promotional items. If you are interested in being involved in school tours, please let Tom B or George know.

HIRING AND TRAINING

New Instructors: With the students on winter semester break and a majority of the buses in the garage, 9 drivers took the opportunity to enroll in the Instructor Training Program offered over the holiday break. This group participated in classroom sessions and on the road training. We want to welcome and congratulate Gibson Akers, Bill Bagnall, Laurel Scott, Mike Hlavacek, Nick Buettner, Kurt Turner, Jeremy Murray, Katie McNulty, and Alex Maurer on their completion and new positions as New Driver Instructors! (George S. and Tom B)

Mind the Line: Please pay particular attention to the yellow guide lines painted within the garage. They serve a useful purpose. These lines help guide drivers move safely within parking lanes and into and out of the garage. When parking your bus within the garage, keep the left side of your bus positioned parallel along the line. The left rear tires of your bus should be positioned next to or within two inches of the yellow guide line. Parking along the guide line ensures your bus is properly positioned and safely away from other buses and fixed objects like walls, water lines, air hoses, etc. Parking askew of the guide line makes it more difficult for other drivers to park and sets your bus up for a preventable accident. Do not be sloppy when parking. Take the time to properly align your bus up when parking. Keep your bus straight and mind the line! Your fellow drivers will appreciate it. (George and Tom B)

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Buses On-Order Update: Six new Gillig 40' buses for CyRide will start down the assembly line the first week of May. They should arrive in Ames during the second week of May. As mentioned in previous editions of *Signals*, they will be very similar to the last order of buses.

Progress continues on the next order of four articulated buses with Nova Bus. CyRide has secured options for ordering the buses from Austin, Texas, and we are in the process of finalizing pricing. These articulated buses should be delivered in the fall of 2016 but delays are anticipated. Feedback from the spring driver meetings has been shared with the manufacturer and they are working on solutions. Two concerns are a slippery front entrance when there is a lot of snow on the ground and the smoking auxiliary heater engine.

The Shop is still working on getting the last two Minnesota used buses in service. Work has been delayed due to maintenance work on existing buses and accident repairs. Snow and inclement weather also slows this progress. (Rich L.)

Relief Vehicle: A 2015 GMC Terrain has been ordered to replace the Chevrolet Impala. This new Terrain should be delivered in the coming months and the Impala will be retired. (Rich L.)

Facilities: The inconsistent building cleaning by the contractor has not gone unnoticed. We continue to work with the contractor to improve the level of service. Please continue to let Maintenance know if you find an area that has not been cleaned. (Rich L.)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE (BRC) CORNER

CyRide Employee Events

CyRide Soup/Chili Day is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This will be the 15th Annual Employee Soup event. Let's see if we can break the 2013 record of 22 varieties of soups! You have the weekend to pull out your crock-pot and make or create your favorite soup recipe to share. If soup is not your forte, salads, vegetable tray, fruit tray, bars, cookies, and desserts are always a bonus so make plans to make this a "Souper" Soup Day – February 23.

Fifth Annual CyRide Roadeo : The Roadeo committee has set the date for CyRide's Employee Roadeo on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Iowa State Center parking lots. Nathan Shimanek will organize the employee ran event and is working on the posters and details. Volunteers will set up and tear down the course, judge driving skills, scoring, and anything else Nathan needs help with for the event. CyRide will provide the cup of joe, juice, and pastries for the morning and the Break-room Committee will supply the brats and hamburgers, and ask attendees to bring side dishes, salads, or desserts to complete the lunch.

Employees participated in this event the past years by showing their driving skills, judging, delivering contestant results to the scorer's table, grilling, cooking, and of course eating. Nathan encourages all CyRide employees to participate, as CyRide will choose up to two drivers to compete in the large bus competition and two different drivers to compete in the small bus competition, for a maximum of four ROADEO participants eligible from CyRide at the IPTA State Roadeo competition in Des Moines, IA, June 10-13, 2015.

Thank you employees and committee members for your contributions, time, and support with day to day duties in making the Breakroom a pleasant place for you to enjoy your break or lunch. We value employees' 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.