



July 2, 2015

Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) Awards CyRide: CyRide received several awards at the 2015 Iowa Public Transit Association Conference held on June 10-13, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Among these awards were two for fiscal year 2014:

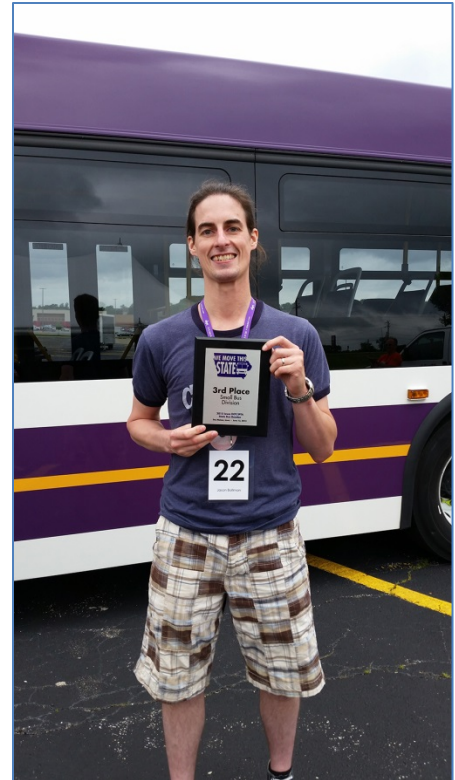
- ["Award of Excellence"](#) from the Federal Transit Administration for the highest percentage increase in ridership of 12.3% and highest increase in ridership of 727,057 riders among Iowa large urban transit systems
- ["Most Improved Transit System"](#) from the Iowa DOT based upon an increase in ridership and decrease in operating costs among Iowa large urban transit systems

Sheri Kyras remarked, "The system recognitions highlight the great job our entire team does at CyRide to deliver quality service to our customers! We are proud of our transit system and huge efforts from all of our drivers, dispatchers, trainers, supervisors, maintenance as well as administrative team that on a daily basis do an exceptionally well at their job.

Additionally, CyRide's employees received several individual awards throughout the week including:

- **Dan Lekin** - Professional Driver of the Year for CyRide - "for exceeding company expectations in providing a safe, and courteous, ride for all his passengers and a safe, and courteous, work environment for his fellow employees in the year of 2014-215". CyRide's drivers determine who receives this award by voting on the driver, their peer, they feel that embodies professionalism for CyRide.
- **Jenny Bethureum** -
 - Four Photography Awards
 - [1st place - Urban Public Transit](#)
 - [2nd place - Urban public Transit](#)
 - [1st Place - Most Creative](#)
 - [3rd Place - Most Creative](#)





All four of CyRide's bus roadeo competitors (two competing in the large bus roadeo competition and two competing in the small bus competition) placed extremely high in the rankings with three winning placement plaques (pictured left to right above).

- **Kevin Gries** - 1st place Large Bus Roadeo Competition
- **Nathan Shimanek** - 2nd place Small Bus Roadeo Competition
- **Jason Bollman** - 3rd place Small Bus Roadeo Competition
- **Gabe Wohlers** (not pictured) - 4th place Large Bus Roadeo Competition

As Kevin received first place within the Large Bus Competition, he will represent the state of Iowa at the American Public Transit Association's national bus roadeo in May 2016 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The bus roadeo competitions are the ultimate test of a bus operator's driving skills requiring operators to maneuver their bus through simulated on-street obstacles such as 90 degree right and left-hand turns, reverse movements, and in close proximity to the curb, as well as completing a pre-trip bus inspection to identify bus defects and safety hazards.

Congratulations to our entire CyRide team and all the individual CyRide employees that were recognized for their personal achievements at the 2015 Iowa Public Transit Association Conference! (Shari A.)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Osborn Drive Study

Iowa State has created a study committee to develop short-term (implement August 2015) and long-term (in the next 1–5 years) to determine how to better manage pedestrian, bicycle, skateboard, transit and car traffic on Osborn Drive. This has been an area of concern for CyRide for quite some time and the committee has been wrestling with how to manage this in

light of ISU enrollment increases in the past five years. The committee has initially focused on short-term solutions for this fall, with the following four categories of actions planned for implementation on or about August 17, 2015 as a demonstration project for the next school year.

- Parking – Restrict on-street parking between 7:00 am to 5:30 pm on weekdays
- Gate Access –
 - Remove six metered spaces on Morrill Road and modify to medical or vendor parking (this will reduce cars allowed to enter the gates)
 - Reroute Palmer Daycare Access to Farm House Lane (this shortens the distance cars operate on Osborn Drive)
 - Restrict large vehicle access (vendors) from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm (This may be possible, but are still determining a plan)
- Bikes –
 - Create a bike dismount zone along Osborn Drive where bicyclists are not allow to ride on the sidewalk and are directed to ride through the corridor on the street
 - Paint bike symbols on the street to indicate that bikes should be in the street
- Buses/Crosswalk –
 - Eliminate the following stops:
 - Seed Science (westbound)
 - Agronomy (eastbound)
 - McKay (eastbound)
 - Limit stops to Orange Only:
 - Physics (westbound)
 - Remove crosswalk linking Science Hall with McKay Hall (Sheri K.)

The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of October to determine if they have reduced the congested feel of, and increased the safety along, this corridor. (Sheri K.)

Iowa State Fall Enrollment: Iowa State administrative staff informed CyRide that they are anticipating approximately 800 more students this fall over fall 2014. This is approximately 300 more students than had previously been planned for CyRide to accommodate. (Sheri K.)

Orange Route Update: The Orange Route Study group last met in April to discuss the three remaining alternatives chosen for consideration. At that meeting, there were several questions asked regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) option, which required staff research with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). CyRide staff met with FTA to discuss the possibility of, and requirements for, a new federal program called, “Small Starts” that can provide up to 50% of the funding for BRT-type changes. After these discussions, this option can still be considered as a possible alternative for CyRide (although there are challenges in getting accepted into this program) and will be discussed further with the study group at a meeting to be set held in July. If this group can choose a “preferred alternative” at that meeting, this will be placed on the Transit Board of Trustees agenda for consideration at their July 30th meeting. (Sheri K.)

OPERATIONS

CDL License Renewal Changes: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is implementing numerous changes within the Commercial Driver's License regulations. **Effective Wednesday, July 8, 2015**, the expiration date on your CDL license makes you ineligible to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle. **There will no longer be a grace period for CDL holders to renew their license. You must renew before your expiration date.**

If you do not renew by your expiration date you will have to start the process over by getting a CDL permit and waiting 14 days to take the driving portion of the test with the IDOT examiner. CyRide Dispatchers will be reminding drivers to renew your license approximately one month before the expiration but you should also take precautions by placing this renewal event on your calendars. According to the IDOT website, you may renew your driver's license 30 days before its expiration date.

If you wish to read over the regulation it can be found at the following link:
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/part/383>. Please see Karen or any supervisor with questions.

Safe Driver Awards: Our drivers earn Safe Driver Awards from the National Safety Council after 2,080 hours of driving without a preventable accident. Each driver receives a Safe Driver Pin and wallet card from the National Safety Council. Drivers also receive monetary awards from CyRide for consecutive years earned. The CyRide Safe Driver Award is earned after 1,040 hours of driving without a preventable accident and drivers receive a wallet card and CyRide Safe Driver mug.

Congratulations to the following drivers who have earned these Safe Driver Awards since January, 2015: (Karen J.)

Chris Williams -	25yrs.	Adam Duke -	1yr.
Glenn Crosswait -	23yrs.	Kim Rasmusson -	1yr.
John Sorbo -	20yrs.	Alex Maurer -	1yr.
Paul Klimesh -	18yrs.	Gabe Wohlers -	1yr.
Tim Baldrige -	7yrs.	Ruth Hines -	1yr.
Kevin Gries -	6yrs.	T.C. Dieckmann -	1yr.
Nick Shimanek -	5yrs.	Kurt Turner -	1yr.
James Crabb -	4yrs.	Gibson Akers -	1yr.
Jason Lippard -	4yrs.	Sam Rohrer -	1yr.
Chris Davidson -	3yrs.	Dan Lekin -	1,040 hrs.
Brian Grootveld -	3yrs.	Sam Mayer -	1,040 hrs.
Ted Mathews -	3yrs.	Arron Andrews -	1,040 hrs.
Phil Lombardo -	2yrs.	Johnathan Lewis -	1,040 hrs.
Matt Kennedy -	2yrs.	Ron Morrison -	1,040 hrs.
John Vachris -	2yrs.	Viveca Dillard -	1,040 hrs.
Dan Strodman -	2yrs.	Paige Carney -	1,040 hrs.
Mike Hlavacek -	1yr.	Jenny Pausback -	1,040 hrs.

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 please return them to Dispatch after filling them out.

Thunderstorms and Tornadoes: Summer in Iowa equals severe weather. During severe weather, the dispatcher will monitor radio and television broadcasts and will notify drivers of dangerous conditions. Drivers should notify the dispatcher if they must stop due to poor visibility caused by heavy rain or hail. Drivers should also call the dispatcher for instructions if a detour is required due to street flooding. In the event of winds in excess of 70 mph or a tornado the outdoor warning system will be activated, drivers should stop the bus in a safe location. Drivers should then direct their passengers to the nearest building for shelter. If no building is available, drivers should instruct their passengers to stay on the bus and remain below window level. Once the sirens have stopped, drivers should contact the dispatcher for further instructions. (Tom and George)

Windows and Roof Vents: When you return to base to park your bus at the end of your shift, please close all windows and roof vents. Also walk through your bus and pick-up any rubbish or lost items. Doing the above will make the laneworker's life easier when they clean and refuel your bus. (Rob and Jenny)

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. (George and Tom)

Don't Block the Crosswalk: Drivers, when multiple buses are pulling up to Gilman Hall (Green East, Blue South, Brown South, 1A Red, Purple, etc.), please do not block the crosswalk. If the first bus is occupying the bus stop at Gilman, the trailing second bus should stop before the crosswalk at this location. Blocking the crosswalk at Gilman, or any other location, presents a safety hazard for pedestrians and increases the likelihood that your bus will contact a pedestrian. (Tom and George)

HIRING AND TRAINING

New Hires: There are many new faces here at CyRide. Thanks to everyone for extending a warm welcome to all who have been hired in the last few weeks. There will be many more new faces as the goal is 30 before the fall schedule begins. We are looking for qualified applicants. If you know people who may be interested in working here at CyRide, encourage them to apply. Your referral could be worth \$50! (Tom and George)

Can you train a lot? With lots of new hires comes the need for lots of instructors. If you are willing to train more than three shifts per week, please let Jenny know so we can plan accordingly before we get lots of new trainees in the door over the next two months. (Tom and George)

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Bus Update: Six new Gillig 40 foot low floor buses were delivered during the second half of May. Maintenance is currently getting them ready for service in the fall. You will probably recall from previous issues of *Signals* that the buses differ from previous orders with a different driver's seat and adjustable foot pedals. The new driver's seat features an optional shoulder belt and other improvements such as a more pronounced forward tilt. Both changes in specifications were based on input from drivers. CyRide also elected to upgrade to the new Voith .6 (dot 6) transmission and Altro flooring. The .6 transmission has internal improvements over the .5 and a new exterior design that will help with transmission noise. The Altro flooring is the same flooring as the 2010 mini buses, but a different color.



In addition to the new buses, CyRide took delivery on five more used Minneapolis, Minnesota buses this spring. The buses received new coats of paint before delivery and maintenance will be getting them ready for service in the fall along with the new buses. (Rich L.)

Fleet Numbers: CyRide's fleet is growing and our numbering system needs to change to accommodate the new buses coming into service this fall. When ISU starts this fall, CyRide will have 104 vehicles in the fleet (85-40ft+, 8-cutaway, 6-support and 5 contingency). This combined with the Department of Transportation not allowing transit agencies reuse vehicle numbers has forced CyRide to change to a 4 digit numbering system if we want to have unique tail numbers. The new system will be similar to the old system. The thousand spot will be the model code number and the last 3 digits will be a unique tail number for each bus. The numbers will be changed so that you will be able to look at the number and tell what the old bus number used to be. This system will be explained in the fall driver meetings more thoroughly. (James R.)

Lane 1 Space Numbering: At the request of drivers and dispatchers, maintenance will be painting space numbers on the wall of lane 1. The space numbers will help those employees who park toward the back of lane 1 know what spot number they are so they can communicate this to dispatch. (James R.)

Facilities: Iowa State University has assisted us in improving the landscaping near the flood wall. We are hoping to improve the landscaping near the front of the building as well. Plans are being prepared to replace the grass island on the north side of the parking lot with additional parking spaces. We will try to get this done by the fall along with the removal of the concrete island at the east entrance. (Rich L.)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE (BRC) CORNER

Fifth Annual CyRide Rodeo: CyRide had approximately 36 employees that participated in our local bus rodeo on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Iowa State Center parking lots. This event provides a way for all CyRide employees to demonstrate their driving skills and improve from year to year! Competition was extremely tough with one-third of the drivers scoring over 400 points on the course! The top four drivers that have bragging rights for the year include:

- Kevin Gries – 1st place – 540 points
- Gabe Wohlers – 2nd place – 486 points
- Nathan Schimanek 3rd place – 475 points
- Jason Bollman – 4th place – 475 points

These drivers were then eligible to attend the Iowa Public Transit Association Bus Rodeo representing CyRide as drivers from transit systems throughout the State compete for the top title for large and small bus. Kevin and Gabe represented large bus with Nathan and Jason representing small bus. Congratulations to our local rodeo winners and all the participants.



CyRide Rodeo 2015 Winners: Jason Bollman 4th place, Nathan Schimanek 3rd place, Gabe Wohlers 2nd place, and Kevin Gries 1st place

Afterward, employees tailgated in the ISC parking lots. (See additional photos) A big thanks to Nathan Schimanek for organizing the event, the shop for putting everyone's names up in lights and to the Breakroom Committee for supplying the brats and hamburgers. Also a shout out to those judges and all the volunteers that helped make this years' rodeo a success. This event is truly a celebration of our entire CyRide team.

