



October 6, 2015

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

**Osborn Drive Update:** At the fall meetings, drivers were asked to complete a short survey regarding their impression regarding Osborn Drive during the last school year, with a rating scale of 10 being "best" and 1 being "worst." The results of this survey are below, which were shared with the Osborn Drive study group.

CyRide Driver Perception of Osborn Corridor <u>2014-2015 School Year</u>	
Issue	Rating
1. What is your perception of the overall level of congestion on Osborn?	<u>2.89</u>
2. How would you rate Osborn Drive in terms of bicycle safety?	<u>2.96</u>
3. How would you rate Osborn drive in terms of longboard/skateboard safety?	<u>2.73</u>
4. How would you rate Osborn drive in terms of pedestrian safety?	<u>3.75</u>
5. How would you rate the severity of conflicts between buses and bicycles?	<u>3.57</u>
6. How would you rate the severity of conflicts between skateboards and buses?	<u>3.63</u>
7. How would you rate the severity of conflicts between buses and pedestrians?	3.86

Since implementation of several changes along Osborn in August, the study group has talked about whether the changes have improved safety and congestion along this street. The consensus from the groups' perspective (students, faculty, campus police, etc.) is that it is significantly better. This belief was quantified using the same rating scale as CyRide's survey, with the group giving the "before" a 3.0 and the "after" a 6.5. This represents a significant one year improvement, with the removal of parking having the biggest impact. CyRide drivers will repeat the above survey in January 2016 at CyRide's spring meeting to reflect driver's impressions of the corridor this fall.

The group is currently discussing if there are other changes that can further improve safety and congestion along this corridor. (Sheri K.)

## ADMINISTRATION

**Ridership Update:** CyRide’s ridership within the first week of classes this year illustrates a slight increase with 203,171 rides compared to 201,641 rides in 2014. The table below reflects ridership by route with the majority of additional rides coming from the #1 Red and #9 Plum routes. The #9 Plum began operating this fall along S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street between Duff and ISU campus due to the influx of 2,000 students living in recently developed high-residential apartment complexes situated just east of the Veterinary Medicine College. While overall ridership is less than anticipated, an increased enrollment of 3.7% (1,269 students) at Iowa State University will likely increase the number of passengers riding CyRide once winter weather arrives.

Total ridership for FY2015 was 6,711,635 which was an increase of 1.4% over FY2014. The additional 1,269 university students that moved to Ames this fall could push CyRide past the 6.7 million rides for another record breaking ridership year! (Rob J)

**First Week Iowa State University Classes**

	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Number Change	Percent Change
#1 Red	51,838	54,534	2,696	5.2%
#2 Green	10,694	10,895	201	1.9%
#3 Blue	31,996	30,239	(1,757)	-5.5%
#23 Orange/#4 Gray	60,918	59,085	(1,833)	-3.0%
#5 Yellow	525	417	(108)	-20.6%
#6 Brown	25,018	24,985	(33)	-0.1%
#7 Purple	1,244	1,250	6	0.5%
#9 Plum	-	3,467	3,467	100.0%
#10 Pink	49	74	25	51.0%
#21 Cardinal	15,985	15,073	(912)	-5.7%
#22 Gold	2,217	1,902	(315)	-14.2%
Moonlight Express	1,157	1,250	93	8.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201,641</b>	<b>203,171</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

**Iowa Clean Air Attainment Grants** – CyRide recently submitted two grant applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Iowa’s Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) requesting \$748,120 to support new transit services operating throughout the Ames community. The ICAAP program provides funding for transportation projects that result in the reduction of emissions and improve air quality. ICAAP traditionally can fund up to three years of a “new” route or expanded service however, the IDOT requires that applications for operating assistance be submitted annually for each of those three years. For transit, ICAAP will also fund any capital equipment (i.e. buses) that is needed to provide these new transit routes or services.

The new routes and service frequencies requested under ICAAP have already been approved by CyRide’s Board of Trustees into the current FY2016 budget therefore; they are currently

operating throughout Ames. If approved; these grants would provide a savings to CyRide for services to be provided in the FY2017 (2016-2017) school year. Below is a listing of the requests.

	Total	Federal
#2 Green/#6 Brown Service Frequency Expansion – Weekdays (11:30am – 6pm; 15-20 min. frequency; 185 days)	\$193,223	\$154,578
#3B Blue Service Frequency Expansion – Sundays (12:00pm – 6:30pm; 20-min frequency; Campus–S. 5 <sup>th</sup> /Duff only; 30 days)	\$10,000	\$8,000
#9 Plum New Service Route – Weekdays (7am – 10:30pm; 20-min frequency; 162 days)	\$276,927	\$221,542
One 40-Foot Heavy Duty Expansion Bus – Plum Route	\$455,000	\$364,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$935,150</b>	<b>\$748,120</b>

(Shari A.)

## OPERATIONS

**Flu Shots:** Flu Shots will be offered at CyRide on **Thursday, October 15, 2015 from 1:30pm-4:00pm** in the training room. Signup sheets will be posted on the bulletin board by the employee mail boxes. Please sign up for a time outside your shift if possible. You will be relieved from your run to get your flu shot if you work during this time. (Karen J.)

**Safe Driver Awards:** Congratulations to the following drivers who earned Safe Driver Awards in July & August, 2015. (Karen J.)

Phil Hodges	29 yrs.	Becky Soukup	3 yrs.
John Packwood	26 yrs.	Anasia Sturdivant	2 yrs.
Ray Coffey	16 yrs.	Grant Olsen	2 yrs.
Adam Wiederholt	11 yrs.	Laurel Scott	1 yr.
Eric Ollie	10 yrs.	Aalariah Waters	1,040 hrs.
Dave Massarini	3 yrs.	Trevin Ward	1,040 hrs.
Ashley Mathews	3 yrs.	Chloe Iles	1,040 hrs.
Charles Long	3 yrs.		

**Bus Stop Signs, Benches, and Shelters:** When you see missing or damaged bus stop signs, rubbish strewn, or damaged bus shelters and/or benches, please record this information on a maintenance card. The maintenance card should be given to the dispatcher at the end of your shift. If damage creates a hazard to passengers, such as broken glass in the bus shelter, notify the dispatcher immediately. Your timely reporting assists us in keeping CyRide safe, clean, and professional looking. (Jenny and Rob.)

**Fall Back:** Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 1st. Do not forget to set your clock (or watch) back one hour. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep! (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. (Rob and Jenny)

**Holiday Time Off:** With the approaching holidays we 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)

**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 deboarding 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 deboarding. 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)

## HIRING AND TRAINING

**Mind the Line:** Please pay particular attention to the yellow line painted within the garage. They serve a useful purpose. These lines help drivers move safely within the parking lanes and into and out of the garage. When parking your bus in the garage, keep the left side of your bus positioned parallel along the line. The left rear and front tires of your bus should be positioned next to or within two inches of the yellow 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 (see photo) 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! (George and Tom)



**Spring 2016 Run Pick:** We will hold Spring Run Pick December 7-10 (after students have had a chance to pick their spring semester classes.) Spring 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, 2015. (Tom and George)



## FLEET AND FACILITIES

**Parking Lot Expansion:** The parking lot expansion project is scheduled to begin in late October. Plans call for the removal of the north island that separates the parking lot and the circulation road. The project will create 14 additional parking spaces and an area for motorcycle parking. Volunteers will be asked to park at Brookside Park during construction as 18 parking spaces will be unavailable. Signs will be posted when a firm project start date has been established. (Rich L.)

**Relief Vehicle Parking:** The designated area for relief vehicle parking will be relocated to the stalls in front of the old restroom area entrance. We received multiple complaints during the fall meetings and this area should be drier than the present location. (Rich L.)

**Bus Stop Improvements:** Construction is nearing completion on new bus shelters installed at Bloomington and Stange and West Hy-Vee stops. An old shelter has been relocated to Lincoln Way and Beedle stop. Finally, a bench and trash receptacle have been installed at Lincoln Way and Franklin. (Rich L.)

**New Bus Update:** Finalization of specifications for the four articulated bus order continues. The buses are still scheduled to be delivered mid-2016. The green light has been given to order three additional 40' buses for delivery approximately 18 months from now. Finally, Eldorado will be bringing their newest 40' bus here on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Their new bus features an all stainless steel frame and composite body panels. They believe they have developed a corrosion resistant vehicle for service in northern climates. (Rich L.)

**Tire Damage:** We have had three unknown tire failures in the last month due to rips in the sidewall. All damage has been done to curbside rear tires. Two tires were damaged on the third axle of the articulating buses and the other was on an Orion VII. All tires are a low profile tire, which results in the sidewall bulging wider than our standard tire.



**Rear Door Sensors:** Buses 181 and 127 have a new style decal installed on the rear doors. The new decal, shown to the right, was created to help passengers better understand how to operate the rear doors. The design work was done by CyRide driver Mitchell Callahan. Please provide feedback on how this new decal is working. Fill out a maintenance card with 'Attention: James' on it to provide feedback. (James)



## **BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE (BRC) CORNER**

**Friday, December 11 – CyRide Holiday Party:** At the time of this publication, the breakroom committee had not met, but will in the upcoming weeks to make plans for the CyRide Holiday Party held in December. If employees have suggestions or ideas for the committee, please contact one of the members listed below, leave a suggestion in their mailbox or see Joanne. Holiday party notices will be posted as the date nears and will ask for your participation to make this another successful event. The committee will ask employees to bring a hot dish, vegetable, salad, appetizer, or dessert to share with your co-workers. This is an annual event for co-workers, friends, and family, and gives us time to share your or our favorite indulgence(s) of the season.

The Breakroom Committee and CyRide employees extend our thanks to Quentin, Rich, and James for your expertise with the grill set up, grilling, and take down/cleanup and the music to give the CyHawk Tailgate the real tailgate atmosphere. We were short on help this year and Rich volunteered the maintenance personnel's help. It was a beautiful day with tasty hamburgers, spiral hot dogs, and grilled onions enjoyed by all.

**We appreciate your support and suggestions.  
CyRide hosts these quarterly events working together!**

*CyRide Breakroom Committee  
Ray Coffey, James Crabb, John Cramer, Yvette Gahring,  
Dave Happe, Donna Olson, Tim Thien,  
John Vachris and Joanne Van Dyke*