



February 1, 2016

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Next Year's Operating Budget: At their January meeting, the Transit Board approved a new budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016. In that budget, an emphasis was placed on changes that would help CyRide attract more individuals to the position of Transit Driver. In preparing these recommendations to the board, staff surveyed other transportation providers in the area, as well as other transit systems around the state, and the changes listed below should make CyRide's positions more competitive in the currently-tight job market.

- Increasing the referral bonus for current employees from \$50 to \$500 and adding a \$250 hiring bonus. The hiring bonus will be divided into two dollar amounts \$150 with new drivers first paycheck and then a \$100 bonus on their first check after completing training.
- Eliminating the training wage and beginning each new employee at the bottom of the wage range.
- Increasing the summer trainer position to a full-time Trainer.

The board also approved implementing these hiring/training changes as quickly as possible in an effort to put CyRide in a better position for the fall 2016 start of school.

In addition to the hiring/training changes, the board approved an additional five hours of service each weekday next year to address unanticipated overcrowding on our routes and an additional two minutes will be added to each run departing from the facility in the morning to address facility congestion issues and timely morning service.

In total, these changes will increase the total budget by an estimated \$180,000. (Sheri K.)

Next Year's Capital Purchases: The Transit Board, at their December meeting, approved the following capital purchases through July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

- Three new 40 foot buses (delivered in 12-18 months).
- Purchase and refurbish five used 40' buses to be ready for Fall 2017 service.
- Replace the Escape support vehicle.
- Replace maintenance truck number 999.
- Replace the deteriorating concrete on the east side of the building.
- Replace the roof on the original portion of the bus storage building.

- Replace seven computers.
- Purchase the following shop equipment:
 - Six new trash pumps used for pumping water out of the building during a flood.
 - One replacement air jack.
 - One tire machine.
 - One wheel/barrel hoist.
 - Replace the maintenance mezzanine storage area railing.
 - One Custom E-Motor Mount used for hybrid bus maintenance.
 - One Emergency Eye Wash & Shower Station as required by OSHA.
 - Large flood pump.
 - Replace the electric hoists.
- Improve bus stop locations according to a bus stop plan.
- Replace bus security cameras.
- Replace current building security system and eventually expand it to the maintenance shop and bus storage areas.
- Purchase software to meet a new federal requirement to manage all CyRide’s physical assets. (Sheri K.)

ADMINISTRATION

Iowa Clean Air Attainment Grant (ICAAP) Funding Award –CyRide received approval of its ICAAP grant application for projects submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation in the amount of \$748,120 for transit service routes/expanded frequencies for FY2017. ICAAP funding will fund up to three years of a new/expanded transit service along with vehicles to provide the service. Specifically, the projects approved were:

	Total	Federal
#2 Green/#6 Brown Service Frequency Expansion – Weekdays (11:30am – 6pm; 15-20 min. frequency; 185 days; 2nd year funded)	\$193,223	\$154,578
#3B Blue Service Frequency Expansion – Sundays (12:00pm – 6:30pm; 20-min frequency; ISU Campus–S. 5 th /Duff only; 30 days - 2nd year funded)	\$10,000	\$8,000
#9 Plum New Service Route – Weekdays (7am – 10:30pm; 20-min frequency; 162 days – 1st year funded)	\$276,927	\$221,542
One 40-Foot Heavy Duty Expansion Bus – Plum Route	\$455,000	\$364,000
Total	\$935,150	\$748,120

The grant approval will provide a savings of \$748,120 to CyRide’s Board of Trustees for services they’ve already approved to fund via local dollars within the FY2017 budget. (Shari A.)

Surface Transportation Program Grant Application: For the first time, CyRide will be applying for \$210,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant funding for the FY2020 budget year offered by the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to support the purchase of new buses.

STP funds are typically utilized by MPO's to fund street improvements but can also be utilized for signalization, bike path and transit capital improvements. CyRide has been struggling to replace capital funding since losing its ability to apply for national discretionary funding within the MAP-21 transportation bill. Within that bill, only transit agencies serving over 200,000 in population were eligible to apply for these types of grants. Therefore, this new opportunity would allow CyRide a way to continue meeting its infrastructure needs while benefiting the entire Ames community.

CyRide is only requesting up to 15% of the AAMPO's \$1.4 million annual appropriation for the purchase of buses. If approved, CyRide could either fund one additional new bus every 1-2 years or help CyRide to upgrade from a 40-foot bus purchase to an articulated bus. (Shari A.)

New Assistant City Manager: Ames City Manager, Steve Shinker, has appointed Brian Phillips the next Assistant City Manager for the City of Ames effective February 1, 2016! Steve relayed that has been impressed by Brian's extensive knowledge of the City's operations and dedication to the City, as well as his commitment to the Excellence Through People values in which has lived every day in the two positions he held with the City since 2012. (Shari A.)

OPERATIONS

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 B. and Rob H.)

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 B. and Rob H.)

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 B. and Rob H.)

Safe Driver Awards (2015) – Congratulations to everyone that earned Safe Driver Awards in 2015. Eighty three drivers earned these awards in the past year but you all do a great job day in and day out. Keep up the good work! (Karen)

Phil Hodges	29 yrs.	Emily Nguyen	1 yr.
John Packwood	26 yrs.	Arron Andrews	1 yr.
Chris Williams	24 yrs.	Laurel Scott	1 yr.
Glenn Crosswait	23 yrs.	Ruth Hines	1 yr.
John Sorbo	20 yrs.	Kurt Turner	1 yr.
Paul Klimesh	18 yrs.	Michael Hlavacek	1 yr.
Randy Lien	18 yrs.	Adam Duke	1 yr.
Nathan Shimanek	16 yrs.	Kim Rasmusson	1 yr.
Ray Coffey	16 yrs.	Alex Maurer	1 yr.
Karen Goodman	16 yrs.	Gabe Wohlers	1 yr.
Ron Pool	12 yrs.	T.C. Dieckmann	1 yr.
Adam Wiederholt	11 yrs.	Sterling Lipscomb	1 yr.
Tedd Devick	10 yrs.	Gibson Akers	1 yr.
Eric Ollie	10 yrs.	Sam Rohrer	1 yr.
Pat Hansen	8 yrs.	Emily Asche	1 yr.
Tim Baldrige	7 yrs.	Dan Lekin	1 yr.
Yvette Gahring	7 yrs.	Myrle Tjelta	1 yr.
Kevin Gries	6 yrs.	Michael Schuster	1,040 hrs.
Nick Shimanek	5 yrs.	Bethany Madden	1,040 hrs.
Jason Bollman	4 yrs.	Alex Kerr	1,040 hrs.
Jason Lippard	4 yrs.	Sam Mayer	1,040 hrs.
James Crabb	4 yrs.	Arron Andrews	1,040 hrs.
Kirk Langas	4 yrs.	Ron Morrison	1,040 hrs.
Chris Lumley	4 yrs.	Paige Carney	1,040 hrs.
Brian Grootveld	3 yrs.	Jenny Pausback	1,040 hrs.
Ted Mathews	3 yrs.	Jose del Valle Molina	1,040 hrs.
Dave Massarini	3 yrs.	Melissia Stanley	1,040 hrs.
Ashley Mathews	3 yrs.	Trevin Ward	1,040 hrs.
Charles Long	3 yrs.	Chloe Iles	1,040 hrs.
Becky Soukup	3 yrs.	Aalariah Waters	1,040 hrs.
Dave Happe	3 yrs.	Keegan Kwirant	1,040 hrs.
Mallory Parmerlee	3 yrs.	Eric Dunlap	1,040 hrs.
Felicia Wilson	2 yrs.	Skylar Hosch	1,040 hrs.
Anasia Sturdivant	2 yrs.	Christen Harms-Bollman	1,040 hrs.
Phil Lombardo	2 yrs.	Zach Willnerd	1,040 hrs.
John Vachris	2 yrs.	Michael Sanders	1,040 hrs.
Matt Kennedy	2 yrs.	Ryan Carroll	1,040 hrs.
Dan Strodman	2 yrs.	Emma Gallegos	1,040 hrs.
Grant Olsen	2 yrs.	Jake Armstrong	1,040 hrs.
Aleksey Kostyushko	2 yrs.		
Tim Thien	2 yrs.		
Reed Wu	2 yrs.		
Sara Scheiding	2 yrs.		

HIRING AND TRAINING

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 (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! Your fellow drivers will appreciate it. (George and Tom B)



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

Used Bus Update: CyRide was able to purchase eight used buses at auction from the Twin Cities Metro over the last three months. The buses are currently being delivered to a repair facility where they will have body work done and be painted. The buses will start arriving in Ames in May to be ready for service by fall 2016. (Rich L.)

New Bus Update: The four new articulated buses on order are scheduled to start down the assembly line in late March and should be complete by late April. Additionally, work is underway on the next order of Gillig 40 foot buses. Up to four buses will be ordered and they will be produced in approximately 16-18 months. (Rich L.)

New RV: A 2016 Ford Fusion hybrid is on order to replace the current Toyota Prius. The Fusion will have more room and should arrive at the end of February 2016. (Rich L.)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE (BRC) CORNER

CyRide Employee Events: Please join us for “CyRide’s 16th Annual Employee Soup/Chili Day” on Monday, February 22nd! As the date approaches, flyers will be printed and posted throughout the facility to remind employees to dust off their soup recipes! In 2013, employees brought a record breaking 22 varieties of soups. Let’s see if we have what it takes to break that record in 2016!

The committee schedules the event for a Monday so employees have the weekend to pull out their cookbooks and skim through favorite soup recipes or just create their own recipe from scratch. If soup is not your specialty or favorite thing to share, there are lots of other options for you to make or purchase, including: salads, vegetable tray, fruit tray, bars, cookies, and desserts! So start thinking about what you plan to bring as we work to break the Crock Pot Soup record in 2016!

Sixth Annual CyRide Rodeo: For those new to CyRide, every summer our employees organize a bus rodeo event to illustrate CyRide employees’ incredible driving skills and maneuvers through an obstacle course of orange cones, tennis balls and barrels. For some, the event is a way to increase their driver skills they utilize on a daily basis while for others it’s a way to outperform fellow colleagues that are the best drivers in the state! But whether you win first or come in dead last or don’t even drive during the event, the rodeo is lots of fun for all employees.



We’re currently working the small details like date/time for the event but hope to hold it at the Iowa State Center parking lot as in past years. As details are finalized, the committee will be looking for lots of volunteers to help with this event so keep your eyes open for these opportunities.



Employees have participated in the past by driving the course, judging, running course elements scores to the scorer’s table, grilling, cooking their favorite potluck dish and of course eating. CyRide encourages all employees to participate in the rodeo with the goal to drive safely, see your name in lights on a bus (thanks to the shop) and just have a good time! Families and friends are also welcome to watch the rodeo and participate in the potluck. The top four ‘operators’ of CyRide’s local rodeo will move on to

compete at the Iowa Public Transit Association's (IPTA) State Roadeo competition in June. The top two 'operators' will compete in the large bus competition and the third and fourth place winners within the small bus competition at IPTA. If you win there within the large/small bus divisions, then you move on to represent the entire State of Iowa at the national competitions. We hope to see everyone at our 6th Annual CyRide Roadeo!

Breakroom Committee: 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.

As we adapt to the new vending vendor, the Breakroom Committee asks for your suggestions and ideas to make this a smooth transition. Please provide any suggestions to any of the members below.

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