



June 10, 2016

ADMINISTRATION

Iowa State Fall Enrollment Projections: Last fall, Iowa State University (ISU) enrollment estimates for the upcoming school year, beginning August 2016, predicted an increase in enrollment to 36,541 or 540 more students than last year. As of May 2016, ISU has revised their predication, indicating that they are anticipating around 37,000 students this fall, for an increase of approximately 1,000 students. However, enrollment is only one predictor of how busy CyRide may be this next year as weather also plays a significant role. If Ames has a rainy, wet fall/spring and/or a cooler/snowier winter weather, CyRide may experience significant ridership increases (5-12%). If these conditions do not occur, CyRide may see lower ridership much like this past year, with less than a 1% increase over the previous school year. (Sheri K.)

National Discretionary Grant Submittal for Bus Replacement: The Iowa DOT recently submitted a national competitive grant to the Federal Transit Administration on behalf of Iowa's urbanized transit systems for \$20.74 million to replace up to 69 buses past their useful life. CyRide staff (Sheri Kyras and Shari Atwood) assisted the Iowa DOT in writing this grant as we have been successful several times in receiving these national discretionary awards. If the Iowa DOT is fully awarded, CyRide could receive up to 12 vehicles as demonstrated in the table to the right. Currently, 48.6% of Iowa's urbanized fleets are beyond their useful life and a full award would decrease this percentage to 38.4%. Over 50% of CyRide's fleet is past its useful life.

Summary of Replacement Vehicles by Transit System				
Transit System	Quantity of Vehicles Replaced	Total Cost	Federal Participation	Local Match
Ames Transit Agency/CyRide	12	\$5,640,000	\$4,794,000	\$846,000
CAMBUS/University of Iowa	6	\$2,680,000	\$2,278,000	\$402,000
Cedar Rapids Transit	4	\$1,180,000	\$1,003,000	\$177,000
Coralville Transit	3	\$655,000	\$556,750	\$98,250
Davenport/CitiBus	12	\$5,292,000	\$4,498,200	\$793,800
Des Moines DART	2	\$556,000	\$472,600	\$83,400
Iowa City Transit	2	\$546,000	\$464,100	\$81,900
Sioux City Transit	19	\$6,272,000	\$5,331,200	\$940,800
Waterloo MET	9	\$1,579,000	\$1,342,150	\$236,850
Total	69	\$24,400,000	\$20,740,000	\$3,660,000

If the Iowa DOT is awarded funding, FTA could decide to grant less than the full \$20.74 million request, anywhere between 1 and 69 buses. When the Iowa DOT receives federal funding, they fund vehicles based on its fleet prioritization process called Public Transit Management System (PTMS) which ranks buses based on age and number of miles operated. Each vehicle acquires 1 point for every month a vehicle is past its useful life and then 1 point for every 3,500 miles a revenue vehicle operates. According to the current PTMS listing, CyRide's first bus is ranked 22nd among the urbanized bus fleet and thus the Iowa DOT would need an award of \$7.82 million for CyRide to get one bus replaced through this grant. The Iowa DOT would need

to receive a \$10 million award for CyRide to replace five buses on the PTMS ranked listing while an award of \$15 million would allow all 12 CyRide vehicles to be replaced. The buses to be replaced are 716, 711, 715, 712, 717, 713, 743, 742, 740, 739, 714 and 741. Several of these buses will be like kind substituted this summer with used Minnesota buses if no funding is granted. Past national discretionary awards have typically been \$5 million however; the Iowa DOT has not received a national award for several years. CyRide estimates that the announcement of this award will transpire by the end of August 2016. (Shari A.)

Odyssey of the Mind Update: Now that Odyssey of the Mind has come and gone we have had another successful year. All of the preparation that was put in was well deserved to make our system run as smooth as it can with the unknown weather and ridership demands. As our overall ridership is down 11.5% from 2014 (81,757 rides in 2016 and 92,395 rides in 2014) we still provided the same level of service at a little over 2,100 trips throughout the week to the participants and chaperones. The weather may have played a major factor in ridership being down this year as people didn't move around as much due to the rain and storms.

As we started planning for OM this year we faced the challenge of not knowing if Beach Road would be open or closed due to construction. We had to come up with alternatives on how to provide the best possible service like we have in the past. The Blue "B" shuttle was originally discussed as a replacement to the Orange "A" shuttle when we thought Beach Road was going to be closed. As OM approached we learned that Beach would be open and discussion to run the "A" route, "B" route, or both challenged us. This year the "B" route was not as popular as in years past but we thought it provided good service to move passengers around campus and quick access to Cy Stephens along Lincoln Way. The route stats are posted by day by the breakroom for anyone that would like to compare to 2014 ridership. Thank you to everyone who participated in making Odyssey of the Mind another fun and successful year. (Rob J)

THANK YOU - CyRide Staff wishes to say "Thank You" for helping with Odyssey of the Mind with an appreciation luncheon Wednesday, June 15 from 9:15am to 5:00pm.

OPERATIONS

Safe Driver Awards: The following drivers earned Safe Driver Awards from CyRide and the National Safety Council in March, April and May, 2016. Congratulations to all. (Karen)

Adam Wiederholt – Million Mile Award

Chris Williams – 25 yrs.

Glenn Crosswait – 24 yrs.

Paul Klimesh – 19 yrs.

Nick Shimanek – 6 yrs.

James Crabb – 5 yrs

Tedd Mathews – 4 yrs.

Matt Kennedy – 3 yrs.

John Vachris – 3 yrs.

Mike Hlavacek – 2 yrs.

Adam Duke – 2 yrs.

Andrew Ragusi – 2 yrs.

Craig Sheehy – 1 yr.

Chloe Iles – 1yr.

Eric Dunlap – 1 yr.

Cameron Watson – 1,040 hrs.

Russ Moore – 1,040 hrs.

Greg Rudolph – 1,040 hrs.

Philip Rockwell – 1,040 hrs.

Clifford Argo – 1,040 hrs.

Isaac DeFord – 1,040 hrs.

John Nordyke – 1,040 hrs.

IPTA Professional Driver of the Year Award: Bethany Madden was nominated for the Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) Professional Driver of the Year Award. The award will be presented at a recognition dinner in Iowa City at the annual IPTA meetings on Friday, June 24, 2016. Bethany will receive a “Professional Driver of the Year” certificate and pin and CyRide will also receive a certificate to display. Bethany received 17 votes out of the 88 votes cast. A comment noted on one of the ballots was:



“Bethany personifies what a professional driver should be. Her exceptional day to day customer service is a standard we should all strive to achieve”.
Congratulations Bethany! (Karen)



International Bus Roadeo: Kevin Gries recently competed in the APTA International Bus Roadeo 40ft. bus division in Charlotte, NC winning 6th place honors. This was Kevin’s first time competing at the national level and out of a possible 700 points he received 558. In addition to operating the bus through the obstacle course, Kevin was required to complete a pre-trip inspection to identify eight bus defects and one safety hazard. Congratulations Kevin! (Karen)

Fall Schedule Changes: CyRide is implementing a few changes Gray route service has been extended into the evening per request of DMACC. There will be a 6:06pm trip from DMACC into ISU campus and deliver out past the ISC hub on request. Also there will be an additional trip at 9:05pm from DMACC that will run into the ISC hub and transfer anyone wanting to continue into campus on the #23 Orange Route. The 9:05pm trip has been attached to the end of run 86 this year.

Brown route is going through some changes on the south end this Fall with the Research Park expanding further south and potentially more students living in that area. Early in the spring semester drivers were asked to tally how many passengers boarded at the Airport Road and North Loop Drive stops. The two week analysis was put together to see total and average ridership at these particular stops and to weigh that against the growth on the south end of the Research Park. The ideas that we explored were: 1) Continue service as we currently are without change, 2) Extend service to the new Research Park Hub (east of the 3rd roundabout), or 3) operate both options serving north loop drive as well as the new Research Park Hub. CyRide did explore operating service to both the new Research Park Hub and North Loop

Drive but time wouldn't allow it in our current schedule structure without an additional bus being added; thereby creating additional expenses not included in the budget. The cost neutral option of expanding service to the Research Park Hub from North Loop Drive was felt to be the best option to better serve the South University Boulevard area. Throughout this process we worked with ISU research park staff to find the best possible solution within our constraints. The research park is considering putting a sidewalk from North Loop Drive to University Blvd to benefit the few employees commuting to this area.

As for other changes to the fall schedule, CyRide made some tweaks to eliminate confusion and help operations run a little smoother. Drivers that have afternoon 1A Red shifts will start a bus from the garage rather than relieve drivers on campus in order to help keep buses from running late. The high ridership demands and pulling extras to help those trips stay on time cost more than the additional relief time. Additionally, most extra and regular route morning pull outs were given an additional two minutes on most shifts to help drivers get out of the garage and start service on time. The garage is a congested area and operations staff has noted over the past year that it is taking longer to get out the garage and start service on time. (Rob J)

Bus Stop Improvements: CyRide is planning to improve the following bus stops over summer 2016. However, implementation may be delayed based on coordination efforts with Iowa State and the City of Ames. For instance, there is an easement issue at Mortenson/Pinon which must be worked through prior to work transpiring. In addition, the stop improvements labeled ISU project is dependent on ISU's schedule and duration of campus construction projects. (Shari A. & Barb N.)

- Lincoln Way/Union Drive (#1172) – New bench and concrete pad
- Bloomington/Stange (#1260) – Concrete pad connecting to sidewalk
- Bloomington/Roy Key (#1282) – Shelter with concrete pad.
- S. 16th/LaVerne Apt (#1326) – Shelter
- S. Duff/Walmart (#1342) – Concrete pad connecting to sidewalk
- Osborne Dr./Science II (#1089) – Remove brick; replace colored concrete (ISU Project)
- Bessey Hall (#1126) – Large shelter w/NextBus LED sign
- Friley (#1210) - Large shelter w/NextBus LED sign
- Welch Rd/Food Dock (#1211) – New benches, concrete waiting area
- Pammel/Spedding (#1384) – Extend concrete pad (ISU project)
- Pammel/Science II (#1385) – Extend concrete pad (ISU project)
- Mortenson/Pinon (#1194) – Combine stop; large solar shelter; concrete waiting area

HIRING AND TRAINING

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 H and Jenny)

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 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 \$500! (Tom and George)

New Instructors: Four drivers took the opportunity to enroll in the Instructor Training Program offered after the end of the spring semester. This group participated in classroom sessions and on the road training. We want to welcome and congratulate Brian Carroll, Greg Fuqua, Dan Lakin, and Sam Mayer on their completion and new positions as New Driver Instructors! (George and Tom)

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Buses Update: In the last issue of *Signals*, it was stated the new articulated buses would be delivered in May. The latest word from manufacturer Nova Bus is that the buses will not be delivered until early August. Once the buses arrive, it will take several weeks to prepare them for service, so the buses will not be ready for the start of the fall schedule.

The Transit Board and Ames City Council recently approved the purchase of four forty-foot transit buses from Gillig. These buses will be delivered in 22-24 months. No major changes to the specification are planned, so the buses will be the same as the last order.

We are planning to have eight more used Twin City Metro buses ready for the fall. Six of the buses will be ready for the start of the fall schedule. Two of the used buses will be delayed due to having additional cold weather equipment installed. As the fleet grows and we are parking more buses outside, we are starting to experiment with equipment that can be plugged-in rather than idling the buses all night on extremely cold nights. (Rich)

Facility Projects: Facility improvement projects are moving slow as well. CyRide had planned to begin improvements (fence repair, new entrance gate, gravel surfacing, electric, new lights) at a remote storage facility at Carnegie Ave/Edison St (Ames Police Department's impound lot), but the project has been slightly delayed. CyRide is ready to proceed with improvements when the police department gives notice to proceed. Likewise, concrete improvements (removing the island) on the east side of the facility and pit reconstruction inside the garage have been delayed due to problems developing plans and specifications. (Rich)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE (BRC) CORNER

CyRide 2016 Rodeo: Congratulations to **Paul Klimesh** (1st Place), **Keven Gries** (2nd Place), **Nathan Shimanek** (3rd Place) and **Gabe Wohlers** (4th Place) for their top level finishes within CyRide's 2016 Rodeo held Saturday, June 4th at the Hilton Coliseum parking lot. To view a video of the event as described by the Iowa State Daily go to https://youtu.be/9B-pHLcl_Ro



The annual rodeo helps to build the skills of our drivers by simulating what they experience on the street every day. Drivers that competed performed eleven obstacles (tight turns, reverse docking, customer service stops, abrupt stops, etc.) within the allotted seven minutes. For each cone, tennis ball, barrel hit/touched or minutes over the allotted time, points were deducted. The driver with the most points out of 550 total possible points won the competition which this year was Paul Klimesh at 545 points!

Overall, there were 26 employees participating in the 2016 rodeo, 10 less than last year, but several more attending to cheer and judge.

Paul and Kevin will move on to compete at the Iowa Public Transit Association on June 25th in Coralville within the large bus competition, while Nathan and Gabe will compete in the mini-bus competition at the same event. The first place winner of the state competition for both



large and small bus competitions will move on to represent Iowa at international level competitions.

Thanks to all CyRide employees that participated at the rodeo in order to better your skills. Also, thank you to the employees that helped organize and put on the rodeo with utmost gratitude to Nathan Shimanek. Thank you for bringing food to share and members of the Breakroom Committee who prepared, organized, and worked the event. If you would like to get a copy of your 2016 Rodeo scores or see how you improved from previous rodeos, see Dispatch.



