

Vote to Recommend FY2015 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) Project, Strategies and Priorities to Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) for Approval

In October's Human Service Council and the United Way's Transportation Collaboration Committee meetings, I presented a status update via email of where the 2014 PTP recommended projects transportation projects were in terms of obtaining federal/state funding and also in being implemented. At that time I requested any additional transportation needs, strategies and projects from transportation providers and human service agencies to be implemented into the plan update for 2015. Specifically, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and individuals with Disabilities projects (Section 5310 funding) should be coordinated through this process. Traditionally this specific funding has supported Dial-A-Ride service and bus stop improvements that benefits the senior/disabled community. This request is the same for this year as no new project came forward this year. (see below)

1. **Dial-A-Ride Service (Section 5310):** This need was identified as a base need for the community for those individuals that cannot ride the fixed-route system but can rather ride CyRide's Dial-A-Ride door-to-door service operated under subcontract currently to Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA). CyRide is mandated by the federal government as part of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA), to provide this complementary fixed-route service for person's with a disability. This demand response service operates the same hours and days as the CyRide's fixed-route transit system. More demand will be warranted from the community in future years. Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and individuals with Disabilities funding (Section 5310 funds) can be utilized by transit agencies to subcontract out their ADA service however; they cannot provide the service themselves and receive the funding. Therefore, it is more economical to subcontract and coordinate with another provider.

Approximate annual funding = (\$237,500 total; \$190,000 federal)

| | Dial-A-Ride (HIRTA) | | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Provides door-to-door ADA service within the Ames city limits. | | | |
| Annual Numbers | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 |
| # Revenue Hours | 2,551 | 2,503 | 2,665 | 3,204 |
| # Revenue Miles | 30,498 | 31,122 | 34,108 | 35,445 |
| # Days Provided/Yr. | 362 | 362 | 359 | 359 |
| # Riders (unlinked) | 9,745 | 9,101 | 10,853 | 9,468 |
| # Elderly Rides | | | | |
| # Disabled Rides | 9,745 | 9,101 | 10,853 | 9,468 |
| Operating Costs | \$136,856 | \$142,717 | \$162,094 | \$144,023 |

2. **Transit Amenities/Bus Stop Improvements (Section 5310):** Improving the accessibility of CyRide's bus stops as well as CyRide's image is of importance to CyRide and their Board of Trustees. Shelters have be prioritized within a bus stop plan for the community to be funded from this identified funding in the next few years as long as funding is available to improve accessibility. These improvements also include lighting within the bus stop improvement as only a few bus stops currently have lighting within the shelter. Many passengers result to lighting up the schedule display within the shelter in the evening hours with their cell phone or a street light. Future shelters would incorporate lighting.

In addition, real-time schedule information has been a request within the Ames community for many years. This technology was implemented in February 2013 with LED digital signage at certain major transfer points on Iowa State University campus. Additional LED signage for real-time bus information can be incorporated into CyRide's system making it easier for seniors and the disabled know when their Next bus will be arriving. CyRide intends to place these signs at major transfer locations.

Approximate annual funding = (\$50,000 total; \$40,000 federal)

The new MAP-21 Transportation bill eliminated New Freedom and Job Access and Reverse Commute funding which was previously coordinated through this effort. Projects in Ames that were funded 50% by JARC

included: #6B Brown Summer, #6B Brown Weeknight, #4A Gray Route and #10 Pink These projects will be provided under the CyRide's General Operations or via HIRTA's budget in future years. As a result of the plan only needing to coordinate one type of federal funding, the Iowa DOT has stated that other transportation projects need not be identified through this coordinated plan. The focus should be on identifying priorities and strategies that could meet identified needs that may eventually lead to projects. Therefore, the priorities/strategies are more general in nature in the attached priorities list.

The IDOT requires that there be a recommendation by human service agencies/transportation providers to forward any projects, strategies, priorities to the Ames Area MPO for approval prior to their review. Therefore, I request at this time that the Story County Human Services Council recommend the following projects, priorities and strategies to the AAMPO for approval. Any human service agency can continue to review and make comments to the 2015 PTP through March 1st when the IDOT comments will be returned to the AAMPO for incorporation. If recommended by the Human Service Council, the following schedule will be completed:

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|-------------------------|---|
| February 1, 2014 | 2015 PTP Update e-mailed electronically to the IDOT for comments |
| March 1, 2014 | Receive IDOT comments to incorporate |
| March 14, 2014 | AAMPO Tech Meeting: 2015 PTP Recommendation to AAMPO Policy Committee |
| March-April 2014 | AAMPO Policy Meeting: 2015 PTP Approval (before Ames City Council) |
| May 1, 2014 | Final 2015 Passenger Transportation Plan Due to IDOT and Federal Transit Administration |

If the PTP is not recommended on to the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) for approval, the Section 5310 projects cannot be implemented into the next required AAMPO planning document – the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Transit projects are required within this TIP document in order to be eligible to receive grant funding from the IDOT or Federal Transit Administration.