



April 11, 2017

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

State Collective Bargaining Law Update: The first impact of the new state Collective Bargaining law on transit systems in Iowa is being felt across the state. The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) has denied approval of a statewide transit grant, which included operating and capital funding for CyRide, as well as other transit systems in Iowa. The reason for their denial was that it restricted union member's collective bargaining rights. The Iowa DOT is currently working with legal staff and the Department of Labor to determine what the next steps will be to resolve this issue; however, this process will delay the purchase of one of four new CyRide buses and funding for three current CyRide routes (Plum, Blue, Green) under Iowa's Clean Air Attainment Program (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funding.

System Redesign Update: CyRide's consultant presented their "preferred" System Redesign service scenario to the Transit Board of Trustees on March 28th. A copy of this new scenario is posted for employees to view and is on CyRide's Website at www.cyride.com/system-redesign. This recommendation includes changes to all but two of CyRide routes, combining changes from Scenario #1 and #2 as well as new changes that addressed public concerns raised regarding the two scenarios.

After a lengthy board discussion of the "preferred" scenario at the March meeting, there was a consensus regarding all changes except the new Gold, Brown and Yellow Routes. They requested more information from staff on these three route changes before final consideration of all the proposed changes in the "preferred" scenario. As a result, a special meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13th at 8 am to further consider approval of a final scenario with minor revisions to proceed forward and build draft bus schedules for this preferred alternative.

Local Bus Roadeo: CyRide was notified by Iowa State University that it would be required to pay for any damages that would occur from having the local bus roadeo in their parking lot this year. As this requirement could total thousands of dollars to an already crumbling lot, CyRide will not be able to hold the event at this location. Staff has been trying to determine a new location in the area, but has not found another option with a large enough lot to accommodate the roadeo course. Additionally, the state roadeo date has been pushed forward and will be in late May this year.

As a result of these two situations, staff has unfortunately determined that CyRide's local bus roadeo will not be possible this year. Instead, the process that has been used in the past when the roadeo was not held will be used to select drivers to send to the state event. A memo describing the selection method will be posted in the next several weeks and drivers notified if

they are selected to participate and represent CyRide this year. It is hoped that given more time, we can determine a way to once again hold a local rodeo after this year's break.

ADMINISTRATION

International Bus Rodeo: Kevin Gries will compete in the International Bus Rodeo 40-foot bus division representing the State of Iowa in Reno, Nevada on May 7th. We wish Kevin well in this national competition!

Website Design Update: CyRide kicked-off our website redesign process in early March which also includes upgrading our content management system (CMS) software with our current vendor, Vision Internet. The Website Steering Committee (Jake Constock, Jenny Bethurem, Tom Budd, Barb Neal, Julie Brouard, Shari Atwood, Rob Jennings and Sheri Kyras) has finalized the look of the homepage design (see below) and over the next 3-4 months Vision will complete the design of the website interior pages and begin the migration. Once this is complete, CyRide staff will need to hand-migrate 100+ schedules pages from excel into the new software as this information isn't contained within the current software but is i-framed into the CMS. Therefore, we anticipate the new site will go live in October 2017.

The screenshot shows the CyRide website homepage with a red header. The navigation bar includes links for Today's Routes, Lost and Found, Contact Us, Select Language, and a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a bus at a stop with a survey overlay: "Take CyRide's System Redesign Survey! Please take CyRide's Online survey on which scenario you prefer for the Ames community!". Below the image are six circular buttons: NEXT BUS, SCHEDULES, MAPS, TODAY'S ROUTES, JOBS, and PLAN MY TRIP. A "RIDER ALERTS" section follows, with a "WHAT'S NEW" tab and three alert cards: "Transit Vehicle Advertising Services", "Update: 3-28-16: Bessey Hall Bus Stop Closed", and "6A Brown Detour". A "MORE ALERTS" button is at the bottom of the alerts section. The footer contains "FIND US" (601 N. University Blvd., Ames, IA 50010), "CONTACT US" (Phone: 515-292-1100, Fax: 515-239-5578, cyride@cyride.com), and "CONNECT WITH US" (social media icons). A small footer note reads "Created by Vision - Where Communities and Government Meet."

Summer Schedule Changes: The changes for CyRide's summer schedule were pretty minimal. The #6 Brown North times were tweaked to give more time to travel to Wilson Hall. The northbound transfer point / time point for Bessey Hall will continue to be at MacKay Hall for a majority of the summer. If construction finishes on time we will go back to using the Bessey Hall transfer point / time point in the fall schedule. There was some minor tweaks to the summer schedule of a minute here or there but nothing major. I hope everyone enjoys the summer. (Rob Jennings)

Fall Schedule Changes: The fall schedule changes will have a few more adjustments throughout. The #6 Brown North was adjusted to allow more time to get to Wilson Hall, similar to the summer schedule. As new apartments south of Wessex on University Boulevard get built and occupied there is a great possibility that ridership will increase in that area. In addition, "The Core" area is continuing to develop so we anticipate ridership will increase from that area as well. Two additional trips of 6A Towers Brown were approved by the CyRide Transit Board so 10:20pm and 10:40pm trips will be added to run 192 M-TH. The fall schedules will be sent off to the printer soon and the summer schedules have arrived. Thank you to everyone that gave suggestions on what to improve or tweak for the summer and fall schedules as well as the map changes. I know several drivers gave great suggestions on how to improve or change the way we do things today. Unfortunately the budget is set by January of each year for the following fall and we have to stay within our budget. Our CyRide maps are a great tool for everyone in the Ames community to utilize in traveling throughout the community.

OPERATIONS

Road Construction Ahead: As you are probably aware, the shortest distance between any two time-points during the summer is always under construction! Major road construction projects that will impact CyRide operations are as follows:

City Projects

- **Clark Ave:** Pre-construction meeting set for 4/11/17, will know more after this meeting.
- **Lincoln Way & Sheldon:** Lincoln Way will be down to 3 lanes used for the next year due to the building project in that block, **beginning 5/17**
- **S. 3rd/S. 4th Street:** 4 phases, bus stops will be changing/cut outs will be added.
 - **Stage 1:** West of Hazel to Squaw Creek = full closure/CyRide will use Lincoln Way to Grand (**beginning 4/9/17**)
 - **Stage 2:** Hazel to Grand = 1 lane in each direction/CyRide will use Lincoln Way to Grand (**beginning 4/9/17**)
 - **Stage 3:** Grand to Walnut = closure/CyRide will use Lincoln Way to S. Duff, S. Duff to S. 5th, S. 5th to Walnut, Walnut to S. 4th St. and back on route.
(*phase 3 will not start until 1&2 are done*)
 - **Stage 4:** East of Walnut to S. Duff = full closure/ CyRide will use Lincoln Way to S. Duff, S. Duff to S. 5th, S. 5th to Walnut, Walnut to S. 4th St. and back on route.
(*phase 4 will not start until phase 3 is done*)

- **Lincoln Way & Franklin:** Widening intersection to 5 lanes/adding a turning lane. *(TBA)*
- **S. Duff by South Wal-Mart:** A signal is being added for a new entrance and will include a median. *(TBA)*

University Projects

- **Stange Rd:**
 - Will be a full closure ***last 2 weeks in July.***
 - Work will be done under the railway bridge on Stange.
 - Turning lane will be removed from Pammel onto Stange.
 - No hybrids on route at all during this time to avoid any confusion as we will be using the Haber tunnel.
- **Vet Med:** Christensen Dr. will be inaccessible ***1-2 weeks beginning 5/17.*** We will use S. Riverside Dr. to access Vet Med.
- **Center St. in ISC Lot:** Eastern half of Center St.; won't affect us ***beginning 5/17.***
- **Bissell Rd:** Shelters will be removed along Bissell to prepare for the widening/long-term project.

Outstanding Performance Awards: 33 drivers earned the Outstanding Performance Award for 2016 by meeting the criteria shown below. The awardees received a \$10 bonus for each year the award was earned and were recognized with a lunch provided by CyRide. Congratulations!

Award Criteria:	
* No preventable accidents	* No lates
* No complaints	* No reprimands or suspensions
* Sick leave at 2.5% or below	* No violations or accidents on state driving record

Glenn Crosswait	24 yrs	Skylar Hosch	2 yrs
Randy Lien	20 yrs.	Matt Kennedy	2 yrs.
David Safina	14 yrs.	Jason Lippard	2 yrs.
Paul Klimesh	13 yrs.	Bethany Madden	2 yrs.
John Packwood	13 yrs.	Emily Nguyen	2 yrs.
Adam Wiederholt	12 yrs.	Bryce Benson	1 yr.
Chris Williams	11 yrs.	Paige Carney	1 yr.
Phil Hodges	8 yrs.	James Crabb	1 yr.
Kevin Gries	7 yrs.	John Cramer	1 yr.
Phil Lombardo	5 yrs.	Kristin Drellack	1 yr.
Mallory Parmerlee	5 yrs.	Charles Long	1 yr.
Tim Baldrige	4 yrs.	Ted Mathews	1 yr.
John Botten	4 yrs	Ron Morrison	1 yr.
Pat Hansen	4 yrs.	Grant Olsen	1 yr.
Adam Duke	3 yrs	Mitchell Rosburg	1 yr.
Laurel Scott	3 yrs.	Craig Sheehy	1 yr.
Tedd Devick	2 yrs.	Dan Strodman	1 yr.

HIRING AND TRAINING

Safe Driver Awards: The following drivers earned Safe Driver Awards in January, February and March, 2017. Drivers earn the award from the National Safety Council after 2,080 hours of driving without a preventable accident. A CyRide award is given after 1,040 hours of driving without a preventable accident. Congratulations to all!! (Barb N.)

Glenn Crosswait	25 years	Paige Carney	1 year
John Sorbo	22 years	Dan Strodtman	1 year
Paul Klimesh	20 years	Joey Abbott	½ Year 1040 hours
Tim Baldrige	8 years	Jianwa Bennett	½ Year 1040 hours
Kevin Gries	8 years	Bryce Benson	½ Year 1040 hours
Nick Shimanek	7 years	Isaac Bruck	½ Year 1040 hours
James Crabb	6 years	David Dalo	½ Year 1040 hours
David Massarini	4 years	Kevin Elias	½ Year 1040 hours
Phil Lombardo	3 years	Seth Kipp	½ Year 1040 hours
Sara Scheiding	3 years	Justin Lewiston	½ Year 1040 hours
Felicia Wilson	3 years	Mansour Mancini	½ Year 1040 hours
Reed Wu	3 years	Avery Martz	½ Year 1040 hours
Emily Nguyen	2 years	Joe Van Erdewyk	½ Year 1040 hours
Laurel Scott	2 years		

Thunderstorms and Tornadoes: Late spring in Iowa heralds the arrival of severe weather. During severe weather, the dispatcher will monitor weather radio, internet, 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, downed tree limbs, etc. In the event of a tornado warning, 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. (Mia, Tom B. & George)

Driver Run Pick Dates: This is the time of the year when drivers choose their work assignments for the upcoming summer as well as the school year that begins in August. The dates for Summer and Fall 2017 run pick are as follows:

- Summer Full Time: April 3-April 6
- Summer Part Time: April 10-17
- Fall Full Time: April 10-13
- Fall Part Time: April 17-Apr 30

Watch for information concerning run pick on the training department's bulletin board. If you have questions about the process, see Jenny, Rob, Mia, Tom, or George.

Help a Laneworker: Now that the weather is warming, 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. (Mia, Tom B. & George)

School Tours: It is that time of year, CyRide will be helping pre-school and grade school students become better bus riders. CyRide offers two individual programs: a Pre-Riders program designed for younger children and an Independent Riders program designed for older children. Each program includes a bus wash, safety talk, and several promotional items. If you are interested in being involved in school tours, please let Mia, Tom B or George know.

Can You Train a Lot? Instructors, if you are willing to train more than three shifts per week, please let Mia know so we can plan accordingly before we get many new trainees in the door over the next 3 months. In addition, if you find yourself getting burned out on training or need a break, please talk to Mia. We would rather reduce your training hours than have you get to the point where you do not want to train at all. (Mia, Tom B. & George)

FLEET AND FACILITIES

Project Update: The roof replacement project is nearing completion. The contractor is waiting on new skylights which will be installed as soon as they arrive. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month. The facility access and security upgrade project is now fully underway. The contractor has removed the wiring for the old system and is in the process of installing new conduit and wiring. This project should also be complete by the end of the month.

There will be lots of concrete work being done here this summer. As a reminder, the pit construction project is scheduled to resume as soon as classes are out. Additionally, CyRide recently received bids for the removal and replacement of concrete on the east side of the facility. Look for both these projects to begin sometime in May. (Rich L.)

Vehicles: Bids were recently received for a new shop truck and Dodge will be the chassis for the next shop vehicle. CyRide also ordered another administration/relief vehicle. The vehicle will be a four-wheel-drive Ford Escape. Both vehicles should be delivered in approximately 12 weeks. (Rich L.)

BREAK ROOM COMMITTEE CORNER

CyRide Employee Rodeo: Due to the CyRide Employee Rodeo not being held this year, the breakroom committee is investigating another avenue to provide some refreshments, snacks and/or treats in lieu of the rodeo where they typically host the food portion of that event. This event would be held to say “thank you” to “all” CyRide employees for your support this past school year and acknowledge employees who are graduating and moving on and employees who are taking a leave of absence or zero hours during the summer months. If you have ideas, please let Joanne or any member of the breakroom know. (Joanne)

Breakroom Committee Members: Yvette Gahring, Karen Goodman, Dave Happe, Donna Olson, Tim Thien, Emily Nguyen, John Vachris, and Joanne Van Dyke