

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Access Plan: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency



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Introduction

This Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan has been prepared to address CyRide's (dba Ames Transit Agency, an agency of the City of Ames) responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance for the operation of its public transit system, as they relate to the needs of individuals with limited English language skills. The plan has been prepared in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Furthermore, this act requires recipients of federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their programs and services for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). Differing treatment based on a person's inability to speak, read, write or understands English is a type of national origin discrimination. CyRide receives federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Iowa Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration.

CyRide is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied of its transit services on the basis of race, color, or national origin. This plan was developed to guide CyRide in its administration and management of LEP related activities.

Plan Summary

CyRide, the public transit operator in Ames, Iowa, developed this Limited English Proficiency Plan to help identify reasonable steps for providing language assistance to persons that are limited English proficient (LEP) who wish to access services and programs provided by the transit agency. Per [FTA C 4702.1B](#) (see Chapter III-7-9), recipients of federal funding are required to conduct a Four Factor Analysis to determine the appropriate level of language assistance to ensure meaningful access to their services and programs. Additionally, CyRide must then develop a Language Assistance Plan based on this four-factor analysis for the LEP populations it serves.

The plan below outlines how to identify a person who may need language assistance, the ways in which assistance may be provided, staff training that may be required, and how to notify LEP persons that assistance is available. In order to prepare this plan, CyRide utilized information obtained from the Four-Factor Analysis, as recommended by the DOT, to determine the specific language services that are appropriate to provide. The Four Factor Analysis is an individualized assessment that balances the following four factors:

1. **Demography Factor:** The number or proportion of LEP persons in the service area who may be served or are likely to be served by CyRide.
2. **Frequency of Contact Factor:** The frequency with which LEP persons come in contact with CyRide's services.
3. **Importance Factor:** The nature and importance of CyRide's services, programs or activities to the LEP population.
4. **Resources Factor:** The resources available to CyRide for LEP outreach, as well as the costs associated with that outreach.

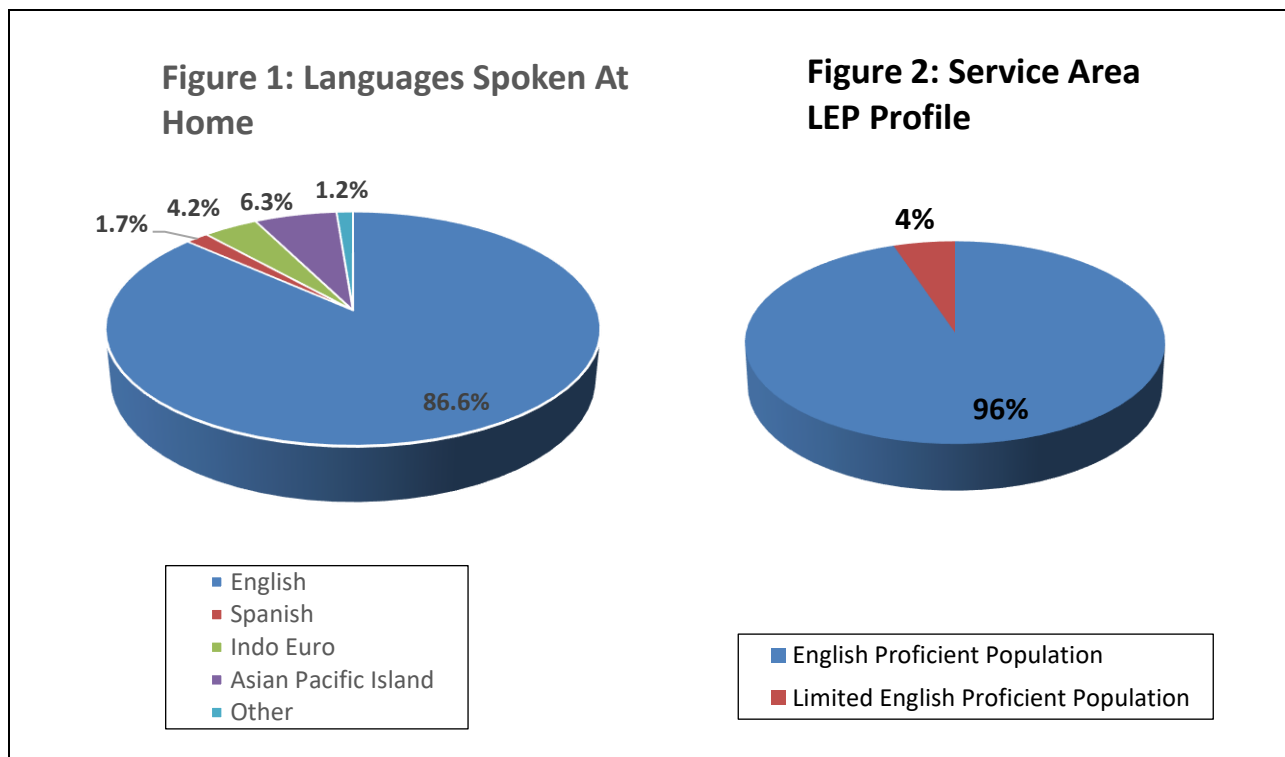
The results of CyRide's four-factor analysis is contained in the following section.

Four Factor Analysis

1) Number or Proportion of LEP Persons Served

Ames Community Survey (ACS) U.S. Census Data

US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) data was previously utilized to determine the numbers and portions of LEP population that reside within the Ames community. According to ACS data displayed in Figure 1, CyRide’s service area consists of primarily English-speaking individuals who make up an estimated 86.6 % of the population. An estimated 13.4% of the populations speak a language other than English throughout their home. The majority of these individuals speak an Asian Pacific Island language, which make up 6.3% of the total population living within CyRide’s service area. The 2018-2023 data is the most recent available from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey for Ames, Iowa.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP02?g=160XX00US1901855>

Although 13.4% of the population living in Ames speaks a language other than English, most of these individuals speaking other languages have indicated that they are proficient in the English language. As displayed in Figure 2, only 4% of the overall Ames’ population speak English less than “very well” and would be considered limited English proficient (LEP). To learn more about the 4% LEP community, the ACS broke out this LEP population into their more specific language data which is displayed in Table 1 on page eight.

CyRide serves the entire Ames general public. CyRide identified specific LEP communities by assessing the number/proportion of LEP persons from each language group to determine if translation of vital documents is needed. This information was attained from the American Community Survey (ACS) data from the US Census. Within the American Community Survey, there are currently 5-year estimates for “Languages Spoken at Home By Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 years and Over.” Per the ACS, the 5-year data is the most precise data available. The total population over 5 years of age within Ames is 64,006. It is important to note that data previously available in 2015 by specific exact language spoken in the home is no longer available due to privacy concerns. Therefore, the table doesn’t provide specific detailed languages anymore and a broad general language category of “Chinese” is now listed instead of Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese languages previously given in 2015.

LEP persons are those persons living in the United States regardless of whether they are a citizen of the United States. According to the Ames Community Survey information, international students attending Iowa State University (major university located within the City of Ames) are part of the Census figures if they are living in Ames for the majority of the year. The City of Ames made a concerted effort within the Census 2020 data-gathering process to ensure participation specifically from CyRide bus riders, including limited-English proficient persons. The Census 2020 was to be a one moment in time report of how many individuals resided in Ames. However, in mid-March 2020 most university students, which is approximately half of the Ames population, left Ames for spring break. Most university students didn’t not return due to the pandemic after the university decided to hold classes virtually for the remainder of the year. City staff marketed to the community and ISU students via direct email advertising that they needed to “Claim Ames” even though many students were not living in Ames on April 1st when the Census was completed. The Census requires that individuals claim where they live for the majority of the year, not just where they are living on April 1, 2020. This message was pushed out to the student population via email and as a result the population did increase in 2020.



The ACS classifies persons speaking a language other than English in their homes and if they spoke English “very well” or “less than very well.” Individuals speaking English “less than very well” are classified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons according to FTA C 4702.1B. Table 1 shows the languages spoken at home for all persons living in Ames five years old and older, with number and percentage of persons broken out by language. The Department of Justice defines the Safe Harbor threshold as 1,000 persons OR 5% of the total Ames population, whichever is less, requiring vital document translation. The overall 5% LEP population consists of 2,692 limited English proficient (LEP) persons with only 993 of those being Chinese and the remaining 1,699 speaking other languages. ***As shown through the data in the table on the following page, all individuals speaking English less than very well in Ames are under the 1,000 or 5% DOJ threshold requiring no specific translation of vital documents for a specific LEP group.***

Table 1: City of Ames Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individuals

Language Spoken at Home By Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over (C16001)	Speaks language at home	Margin of Error	Speaks English very well	Margin of Error	Speaks English less than very well	Margin of Error	Speaks English less than very well
Total Population > 5 Yrs.	64,006	±250					
Speak only English	55,406	±868					
Spanish:	1,112	±297	966	±233	146	±119	0.20%
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	120	±126	120	±126	0	±24	0.00%
German or other West Germanic languages:	394	±199	356	±196	38	±63	0.10%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	351	±158	248	±138	103	±86	0.20%
Other Indo-European languages:	1,816	±556	1,527	±528	289	±150	0.50%
Korean:	993	±329	428	±196	565	±282	0.90%
Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese):	1,634	±459	641	±199	993	±414	1.60%
Vietnamese:	414	±292	203	±138	211	±168	0.30%
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	178	±172	178	±172	0	±24	0.00%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	789	±296	635	±242	154	±120	0.20%
Arabic:	243	±182	220	±157	23	±33	0.00%
Other and unspecified languages:	556	±190	386	±140	170	±127	0.30%
TOTAL	64,006		5,908		2,692		

Source: American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C16001, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.C16001?q=c16001+language+spoken+that+speaks+english+less+than+very+well+by+&g=160XX00US1901855>.

This result is a change from the previous LEP four-factor analysis where Mandarin Chinese was identified as an LEP group in Ames. As of 2023, individuals speaking English less than very well that speak Chinese in their household only account for 993 or 1.6% of the total Ames population as can be viewed in in Table 1 shown above. Therefore, Chinese (993 or 1.6%) no longer meets DOJ’s safe-harbor threshold of over 1,000 individuals or 5% of the population. The next highest languages speaking English less than very well in Ames are Korean (565 or 0.9%), Vietnamese (211 or 0.3%), and Spanish (146 or 0.2%). Again, the 2018-2023 ACS 5-year data is the most recent LEP language data from the U.S. Census Bureau for Ames, Iowa.

School K-12 Data

CyRide was notified during a 2011 Title VI federal review, that the review team believed Ames to have a large visible non-ISU student Asian presence within the community as indicated that transit riders were not wearing backpacks. The team indicated that this presence could likely be displayed with a large presence of LEP students in the Kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and determined that CyRide should document this potential LEP group. Since that time, CyRide has worked with the schools to learn how to better work with their LEP population.

One of the many programs within the ALP is to provide “English as a Second Language” (ESL) to “English Language Learners” (ELLs) with language and cultural instruction to increase academic achievement and social development. According to the most recent [Lau Plan](#) from November 2024 (named after the landmark [Lau vs. Nichols U.S. Supreme Court Decision of 1974](#), for equal access plan protecting ELL’s), English learners in Ames make up approximately 9% of the student body (double the current overall LEP population of 4% on the ACS data) with the greatest concentration of these individuals enrolled at the elementary level. The plan indicates that the ACSD works with approximately 350 students from over 40 countries that speak more than forty unique languages. The main language groups are Spanish (52%), Chinese (5%) and Arabic (14%).

The Ames Community School District (CSD) strives to prepare English Learners who are socially and academically confident, bicultural, and multilingual through welcoming and engaging students and their families in the educational process. The goal is for an ELL to exit the [ACSC’s ESL program](#) in less than four years. The ultimate goals are to increase the percentage of language learners making growth on at least one subtest of the annual English language proficiency assessment and decrease the number of long-term EL’s that need more than four full academic years in the program. Additionally, family engagement is important by hosting one EL family event each year.

The Ames CSD staff has indicated that many teachers utilize their own personal iPhone and translate through an App, if needed, to communicate. However, this translation is not a requirement for school staff nor does the district provide these phones. Currently, individuals can reach out for assistance at each of the five elementary schools, middle school or high school in the Ames district. Students spend most of their day in a regular classroom, but are pulled out for a portion of each day to receive instruction in English as a second language. Alternatively, students may also remain in the regular classroom and receive English language support from the classroom teacher or the ESL teacher.

CyRide has requested whether there are any formalized group meetings through the schools for these students or families of the ESL students to actively involve student’s families in participating with CyRide’s transportation planning process. The Ames CSD staff elaborated on how extremely transient this group of English Language Learners (ELLs) are in a university community. Additionally, they relayed that about every six months the language climate changes as students come and go frequently. Many ELL’s switch colleges and this occurs quite frequently

for “town and gown” communities like Ames. As a result, CyRide staff noted that no formalized LEP groups for parents currently exist within the K-12 school system per the response.

Concentrations of LEP Persons or LEP Communities

Additional steps were then taken to identify any concentrations of LEP groups that meet in Ames, which the following information summarizes.

Ames LEP Groups

Due to having 13.4% of Ames residents speaking a different language other than English at home, the following groups have been developed. The City contracts with the Big Word which is available 24/7 to provide translation when needed to Ames’ residents. However, no city led LEP groups occur. .

- **Conversation Circles:** The [Ames Public Library](https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/language-learning-library) has several Conversation Circle program events (<https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/language-learning-library>) where language learners of all levels can improve their skills by chatting with others. The Conversation Circles include seven different circles including: Spanish (Tuesdays 7-8:30pm), German (Wednesday 7-8pm; 2nd/4th of the month), Russian (Saturdays 3-4pm), French (Saturdays 4-5:30pm), Japanese (Saturdays 2-3pm), Chinese (Thursdays 6-7pm) and English (Mondays 12:30-1:30pm). These circles and times are subject to change.
- **Christ Community Church (5501 George Washington Carver Ave.; Ames, IA 50010):** Chinese international students and scholars connect to discuss the Bible with others in a warm, friendly environment (Friday, 7pm in Room C2; Sundays, 10:45am in Room C1) at the church in north Ames.
- **DMACC English Language Learner Program:** Noncredit English Language Learner (ELL) courses consist of multi-level English instruction for anyone 18 years or older. The courses move learners from a beginner level to a solid intermediate level of proficiency. The classes cover the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as improving pronunciation and building vocabulary. The primary goal of the course is to teach communicative competence, that is, the ability to communicate in English according to the situation, purpose, and roles of the participants. The CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) is used to appraise the students' English reading and listening skills and to place them in the appropriate learning level. <https://www.dmaccc.edu/ell/non-credit-ell.html>
- **United Way of Story County English Language Learner Programming:** The United Way of Story County works to develop ELL handouts available in collaboration with the Story County Immigrant and Refugee group. Some ELL programs are structured classes and some are just conversational casual conversations for ELLs to gain confidence and fluency in a fun setting. The UWSC might be the best way to find many LEP groups and groups

that promote English learning.

<https://www.uwstory.org/sites/uwstory/files/Story%20County%20ELL%20Options%20Sp%20ring%202024%20Semester.pdf>

University Minority/International Enrollment

Since many individuals from other countries around the world seek higher education after high school by attending Iowa State University (ISU), identifying the majority of the individuals listed in the US Census that also attend ISU was the next logical step. The following table is minority information from Iowa State University’s Office of the Registrar attending ISU since 2009. ISU’s Office of the Registrar previously indicated they track the international students by the country the student is from but not by minority group. In addition, the Office of Registrar indicates that they do not provide/track languages spoken by any student enrolled at Iowa State University. As of the fall 2025, Iowa State University does not track languages spoken by ISU students or whether they speak English very well at this time. Fall 2025 statistics indicate a slight decrease in the international population (2,823) coming to Ames from last year. The highest international population was in 2016 with 4,131 students and has decreased by 32% since that time.

Table 2: Iowa State University Minority Enrollment

	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Black	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Hispanic / Latino of any race	Two or more races	Inter- national	TOTAL
Fall 2009	66	735	791	7	770	163	3,017	5,549
Fall 2010	65	721	756		832	241	3,327	5,942
Fall 2011	58	787	768	15	993	339	3,424	6,384
Fall 2012	61	788	801	25	1,134	446	3,510	6,765
Fall 2013	67	819	875	29	1,334	565	3,797	7,486
Fall 2014	80	891	940	31	1,451	672	3,980	8,045
Fall 2015	91	943	993	35	1,564	700	4,041	8,367
Fall 2016	75	954	1,083	29	1,724	752	4,131	8,748
Fall 2017	72	948	1,089	29	1,800	736	4,115	8,789
Fall 2018	73	928	1,149	22	1,933	778	3,671	8,554
Fall 2019	66	850	1,149	24	1,982	799	3,198	8,068
Fall 2020	56	867	1,189	24	1,951	837	2,592	7,516
Fall 2021	54	821	1,165	18	1,993	838	2,532	7,421
Fall 2022	48	787	1,228	23	1,986	809	2,443	7,324
Fall 2023	43	773	1,243	17	2,015	851	2,718	7,660
Fall 2024	41	724	1,249	16	1,995	889	2,878	7,792
Fall 2025	41	795	1,290	21	2,233	988	2,823	8,191
Average 21-25	45	780	1,235	19	2,044	875	2,679	7,678

Source: [ISU’s Office of the Registrar Minority Enrollment Statistics](#)

Note: International students’s minority breakdown is not available.

English Language Learner Assistance

Iowa State University “requires” all international students whose country’s “official” language is other than English (or those that request English assistance), to complete an [English Placement Test](#) unless the student meets certain exemptions. International students who are admitted to Iowa State but lack English skills can enroll in courses to strengthen their English skills.

<https://apling.engl.iastate.edu/esl-courses/> For more information, visit <https://apling.engl.iastate.edu/for-all-students/>.

However, the Office of Registrar relayed that Iowa State University made a decision to suspend its [Intensive English and Orientation Program](#) (IEOP) in Ames at the end of its 2022 summer session and its website is no longer active. Due to the suspension of this program in the summer 2022, CyRide is unable to assess how many individuals are now limited English speaking enrolled at Iowa State which was once available.

Per the [United Way ELL Programming handout](#), there is a “Coffee, Tea and English” Conversation Group that occurs every Friday from 4:30-6pm held at the Gerdin Business Building Lobby Café’ on ISU campus.

The next section discusses CyRide’s outreach to other community organizations within the Ames community that work with the LEP population and provide essential services (food, shelter, clothing) for residents.

Community Organizations

Story County Transportation Collaboration (TC) – CyRide works with the Story County Transportation Collaboration group (<https://www.aampo.org/tc.php>) consisting of transportation providers and human service agencies to work toward decreasing barriers to transportation service throughout Story County. Within conversations with this group, CyRide approaches this group to see if limited English proficiency (LEP) was an issue with their clients in accessing transit services. Most groups indicated that transportation was something clients had already figured out by the time they reached their basic human need services (food and childcare). As part of this discussion, agency representatives relayed that providing a method for staff to utilize CyRide’s website in alternative languages as agency staff helped their clients in their transportation is useful. Google Translate is available on CyRide’s website as an option for those wanting to obtain transit information in alternative languages. Agency staff indicated they could print the schedule from CyRide’s website for the individual speaking an alternative language if they did not have internet access. CyRide also has verbal translation available by



contacting the Big Word via the telephone 24/7. The TC group continues to be a good way to search out LEP outreach opportunities for CyRide.

CyRide continues to reach out to Ames/Story County human service agencies as well as Iowa State organizations that work with individuals that may be limited English proficient (LEP) through the human service agencies of over 30 organizations. This list was based on the previous human service council and consisted of organizations representing transportation providers, school systems, youth organizations, health organizations, community organizations, state/city governments, religious organizations and legal aid entities. This group met monthly prior to the pandemic and has since ended.

CyRide continues to work with the [Engaging International Spouses \(EIS\)](https://www.ywcaames.org/engaging-international-spouses) organized by the YWCA who is just one agency in this group. Prior to the pandemic, CyRide met twice a year with this EIS group to provide information about CyRide and opportunities for input into the transit system. When the pandemic occurred, the YWCA Ames group requested that CyRide develop a video presentation about how to take public transit in Ames and where to go for information. From past meetings, the international spouses attending these informational sessions seem to be good oral English communicators. <https://www.ywcaames.org/engaging-international-spouses>

International Students & Scholars (ISS) – CyRide provides information to all new students, living in the United States and abroad, arriving for orientation off and on over the past decade. CyRide has also provided orientation services directly to the International Students and Scholars (ISS) Organization upon request as they do for all organizations that request how to ride information. CyRide periodically meets with ISS staff to discuss issues with new



international students arriving in Ames prior to their housing being available. Housing for the international community is typically on the outskirts of east Ames with no direct routes to this area. CyRide does have an on-demand route that operates weekdays from 7am – 7pm to this area. CyRide reached out to ISS to discuss being part of the ISS Orientation process and the ISS indicated they would contact CyRide to make arrangements in future semesters if they feel this is a need. Please note that the international student enrollment at Iowa State University has decreased by 30% over the last five years.

Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) – Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) serves children and families in poverty throughout Central Iowa serving LEP individuals speaking Spanish, Chinese of many dialects and Arabic/Turkish. They indicate that they struggle with the language barrier having nearly 40 instances daily with a wide range of languages/dialects. MICA does not have an interpreter on staff that they utilize but rely on the clients to bring an adult interpreter they trust as the most economical option. They noted that many families do not have childcare or food services but have a good understanding of the transportation resources provided by CyRide by the time they visit MICA. They also relayed that LEP individuals differ in range of understanding between a 3rd to a 9th grade level signifying that flyers/brochures need to be offered more simplistically for a elementary level mentality. Again, this is not really an issue with the English language versus their preferred native language but an education level. For instance, the Director mentioned that flyers/brochures may not be understood even if provided in the LEP person's native language as the person cannot decipher their native written language either.. All nine individuals but one that CyRide provided language assistance for were those speaking Spanish. It was also indicated to CyRide that others may understand spoken/verbal English really well but may not be able to read the flyers/brochures so they lack the ability to read English but speak it well. MICA indicated the ability to access information from CyRide's website, translate it with a drop down button and print off this information is now extremely helpful when providing public transit information to their clientele. CyRide also asked whether the videos illustrating "[How to Ride CyRide](#)" and "[How to Read a Schedule](#)" were useful to MICA's clientele. MICA staff indicated that not many requests were made for this information. However, MICA did note that other human services agencies have the videos playing in their waiting areas for clients' information that may be useful. Again, MICA indicated that transit questions are extremely infrequent as this information has already been attained by the individual to reach their agency. MICA indicated that the ability to print schedules off CyRide's website in the individuals preferred language is of use to staff.

CyRide finds that LEP persons are not underserved by CyRide due to the language barriers and finds that these persons are provided with meaningful access to CyRide's programs and services. This is evidenced by only CyRide providing translation services twice via the language line over the past three years.

2) LEP Persons' Frequency of Contact

LEP persons interact with CyRide similar to the general public in accessing our public transit services by:

- Riding the bus & interacting with CyRide driver
- Calling or emailing CyRide staff for assistance
- Walk-in customers at CyRide (pass sales, lost-n-found, etc.)
- Public meetings and hearings
- Meetings with local human service agencies
- Acquiring schedule information via brochure, website, phone or texting

- Lodging a concern/complaint or commendation to CyRide
- Taking a survey dispersed by CyRide
- Requesting additional transit service (hours/frequency/locations) in Ames
- Requesting/Riding Dial-A-Ride services (ADA Paratransit service)

CyRide began tracking contact with LEP individuals via a LEP log listing in November 2010 for those instances where supervisors are either called out to assist LEP passengers as requested by the bus driver, language assistance is needed at public meetings, office communications, or where confusion is indicated over the phone with customer service staff due to a language barrier. Overall, there has been nine instances of contact with LEP individuals over the past three years where translation has been necessary to communicate. According to the log and invoices, the CTS Language link was utilized only twice over the last three years. However, dispatch logged nine instances (four over the phone and 5 on the bus) where translation was needed over the past three years. Eight of the instances required translation in Spanish and one speaking Hindi. In every occurrence, CyRide was able to assist the passenger to their final destination or provide them with additional information.

In August 2019 CyRide employee survey where questions were asked to attain a better understand LEP frequency of contact among CyRide's services. Nearly 90% of drivers indicated that LEP persons rode CyRide every day or a few times a week. This survey also indicated that drivers have direct communications with LEP persons 14% everyday, 37% a few times a week, and 30% a few times a month. Over 94% of drivers then communicated that an LEP person's questions are always or are sometimes answered during the drivers' communications in English. For those drivers indicating that the person's questions were not answered at all, rarely or sometimes, approximately 70% do not request additional help by a supervisor. CyRide staff did not re-administer this survey to CyRide employees in 2022 or 2025 as we have determined these details do not provide value added services. Additionally, CyRide has access to the Big Word, 24-hour language translation service.

CyRide regularly reminds operations of the language assistance services available to help communicate with the LEP passengers. If there were instances where the language line was utilized and just not logged, CyRide would have invoices for the language assistance calls. As noted earlier, there has been only two instances over the past three years where language translation services were needed by CyRide. CyRide will continue to remind Operations staff of the available language line assistance and LEP tracking requirement at their monthly staff meetings.

CyRide acknowledges very frequent contact with the International student community that rides the bus that might be LEP. This is illustrated by just hoping on a CyRide bus and listening to the languages spoken in the community. CyRide acknowledges that there may be instances on the bus where drivers are not able to understand customer's requests riding our services. Drivers are first instructed to first pull out a map and utilize the visual map to communicate on where passengers want to go via CyRide. The discussion is pointing to the map saying that "We are here" and then asking them to point where they want to go. The driver would give the number and color of bus with the next times to leave. Numbers are the same in any language.

Any language barrier instances are not documented by the driver as incidents because the driver will call a supervisor for help if unable to communicate quickly with a passenger as supervisors have more time to communicate as well as can utilize the language line for assistance if an interpreter is necessary. At CyRide, incident reports are documented any time there is a conflict issue with passengers or if there is a belief that an accident occurred either on/off the bus. Again, any instances of contact between LEP individuals and supervisors are recorded in the LEP contact log. Again, over the past three years, there has been only two instances where CyRide utilized the language assistance line for an individual.

CyRide has not modified its routes since the system redesign implemented in summer 2018. CyRide had several public meetings in fall 2017 and spring 2018 toward redesigning its transit routes. CyRide tracked minority information within these meetings and all individuals left their comments for these changes in English. CyRide did have one individual attending a meeting that was blind, but English speaking, and staff spent considerable time with them ensuring that they understood the route modifications. They verbally relayed that more frequent service on the #14 Peach was desired that then operated hourly service. Staff ended up doubling the frequency of the route to 30-minute headways for #14 Peach that next summer as a result of this encounter and other similar communications from the general public regarding this route. Since that time, the 30-minute frequency couldn't be accomplished with a large transit bus and CyRide has moved this to a 40-minute service frequency. No comments were relayed regarding this service change.

In the spring driver meeting for August 2019, CyRide performed a Limited English Proficient (LEP) CyRide Survey, which was designed to better understand LEP frequency of contact among CyRide's services. After reviewing the survey results, staff felt that this survey was reflecting contact with 'minorities' rather than limited English speaking individuals. Over 94% of drivers indicated that LEP persons rode CyRide every day or a few times a week. However, it is more likely that many Asian minorities speak their native language to each other on the bus rather than speaking English. Staff felt the survey was misleading in that drivers related many Asian minorities as being limited English speaking just because they speak their native tongue on the bus, which is not valid. The quantitative number CyRide was trying to determine how many times drivers are having "issues" or "concerns" communicating with individuals on a daily basis to the point that they need to call out a supervisor for additional resources. This survey indicated that drivers have direct communications with LEP persons 14% everyday, 37% a few times a week, and 30% a few times a month. Based on utilizing translation services only twice over the past three years, CyRide did not re-administer the survey in 2025.

Based upon the above recollection of past contact with LEP persons and the LEP log, CyRide assessed the frequency that staff and drivers have, or could have, contact with LEP persons in the future. Although minimal contact has been made in the past per the LEP log, this table represents the frequency that LEP persons "could have" contact with primary touch points. The following "touch points" and frequencies have been identified on the following page:

Table 3: Primary Touch Points

PRIMARY TOUCHPOINTS		FREQUENCY
Bus – No communication made with Driver	Buses are noted with number and color to identify each route.	Frequently
Bus – Communication made with Driver	Buses are noted with number and color to identify each route.	Occasionally
Customer Service Interactions – How to Ride Lost & Found items Next Available Bus Fares Etc.	Phone calls are made to CyRide requesting information. CyRide Total # of all calls: ◆ 15-35 calls/hour on weekends ◆ < 100 calls before 8am ; 150 -200 calls/ hour weekdays 8am-9pm; <100 calls after 9pm	Occasionally
Emails To CyRide	Email requests submitted to CyRide	Occasionally
System Route Map/Timetables	Printed/Website Bus Information	Frequently
Supervisors	On-route assistance to drivers/passengers; employees that provide assistance and may pick up passenger along certain route sections to keep buses on-time	Occasionally
DAR reservationists (ADA Services)	HIRTA staff	Frequently
Fare Information or Purchase of Passes/Tickets	Most of CyRide passengers have free access with ISU ID card; but information is critical to ride; majority purchase passes 1-2 times/year as opposed to daily tickets or cash	Occasionally
Bus Stop signs	Route numbers and colors designate specific route for CyRide.	Frequently
Website (Detours, What’s New Information)	www.cyride.com	Frequently
Title VI Complaints	No complaints since the last submission.	Occasionally
Public meetings and hearings	Board meetings or other public meetings regarding transit services modifications	Occasionally

3) Nature and Importance of Services

Transportation is vital to any person accessing services throughout Ames if they are transit dependent. CyRide believes that the LEP population within Ames is derived partly from the international community of which generally does not bring automobiles to the United States. Therefore; this population relies on CyRide for a majority of their transportation needs while living in Ames going to school at Iowa State University and public transportation is critically important to this group once they've arrived in Ames. CyRide does not provide transit services outside of Ames at this time. Iowa State decided to

Transportation for any Iowa State student is available between the Des Moines airport and Ames via Iowa State University's Transportation Services Shuttle Service which is driven by an ISU employee with all services leaving 919 Haber Road. Trips are to be booked 72 hours in advance. Group shuttles are available during special times of the year for \$50 or \$125 during anytime of the year. For any questions contact [Transportation Services](#) Monday-Friday 7:00AM-4:00PM; Email: shuttleservices@iastate.edu; Phone: (515)294-1824. Additionally, shuttle drivers are offered for special university business events during the weekday during business hours. Transportation is not specifically offered for non-students and would need to be arranged via taxi, uber or lyft services.

Once individuals arrive in Ames, CyRide is the main source of transportation for international students. Many limited English persons (LEPs) may also be low-income and reliant on the bus even if they are residents of the United States and therefore transportation is critical for these persons as well.

Per, it was found that roughly 6% (2,936 /48,891) of the total working population utilizes public transportation to get to and from work. Of that, the ACS estimates that 0.7% or 338 are limited English proficient. In addition, half the Ames population, over 31,000 individuals, attends Iowa State University and is likely non-working but utilizes the bus frequently to get to and from campus for their continuing education.

Table 4: MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH: Workers 16 years and over

Means of Transportation to Work	Total	LEP Pop.	% of Total
Workers 16 and over	48,891	1,822	3.7
Car, Truck, or Van – Drove Alone	34,405	1,304	2.7
Car, Truck, or Van – Carpooled	2,942	115	0.2
Public Transportation (excluded taxicab)	2,936	338	0.7
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle walked or other	5,254	41	0.1
Worked from Home	3,354	24	0.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate
<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2024.C08513?g=160XX00US1901855>

CyRide currently does not provide any emergency evacuation instructions within vehicles or shelters at this time. CyRide is available to the city if emergency situations do arise and evacuations are necessary. In these instances, the evacuation is being coordinated by other agencies throughout the city and CyRide is a resource to them. For instance, CyRide evacuated individuals during the 2010 flood from certain residential housing and transported them to safe locations determined by the City. Again, CyRide did not lead this emergency evacuation and City staff was coordinating the evacuations. CyRide just provided buses/drivers to accommodate the evacuation. CyRide did translate messages during the 2020 pandemic that offered free rides to passengers and to “mask up!”

CyRide believes its vital or critical services are:

Critical Service	Explanation	Importance
Schedule/Timetable	Map, Routes, Timetables (Available via print or website)	Extremely Important
Detours	Changes to routing or bus stop closures (Available via website, closed stops & temporary bus stops)	Extremely Important
What’s New	Changes to CyRide’s policy, new service route, events, public meetings, etc	Very Important
Fares	How much to ride CyRide	Very Important Students ride free with ISU ID; Ames community would need this information
Pass Sales Outlets	Where to obtain passes/tickets.	Very Important
ADA Brochure	Complimentary ADA Service (Available via print or website)	Very Important
ADA Application Form	How to apply for complimentary ADA Service	Very Important
Title VI Complaint	Ability to file Civil Rights complaints with CyRide, FTA or City.	Very Important
Bus Signage	How to exit bus, pull bell cord, and other information displayed on buses	Extremely Important

CyRide also posts rider alerts on its website but these are typically not critical issues to utilize its services. The passenger may be late to work/class as a consequence if a detour is missed by LEP individuals. However, a missed trip due to a missed detour communication may be enough to discourage an LEP person from riding CyRide’s services in the future. CyRide posts all detours on CyRide’s website with a verbal description of the detour along with a map as well as on Facebook and X. In addition, information is posted at every bus stop in English and temporary stops are placed along the route detour if needed.

4) Resources Available for LEP outreach & Costs

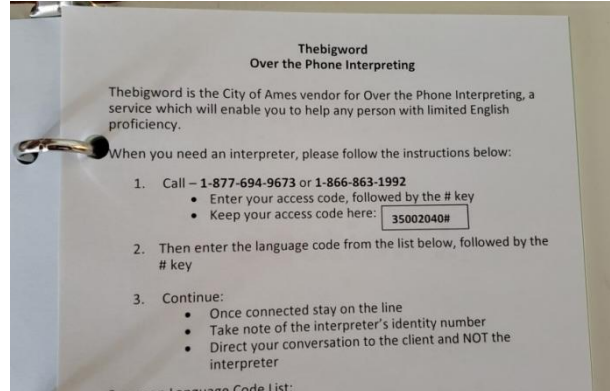
CyRide has the following resources available to reach out to Limited English Proficient persons in the Ames area at a low/reasonable cost with just staff time for coordination involved.

- **Documents/Public meetings notices** (free) - When documents are prepared or public meetings are scheduled for which the target audience is expected to include LEP individuals, then documents, meeting notices, flyers will be published on CyRide's website in which Google Translate would have translated the materials into the preferred language of choice. CyRide will add to public meeting announcements that interpretive services are available upon request to CyRide by calling 515-292-1100 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting for arrangements to be made. CyRide will also publish vital documents on the website in word, if possible, as translations would not be possible through this digital format. The majority of contact with CyRide is through their website due to the highly educated ISU student population, therefore it is most important to have all critical service materials on the web. To substantiate, the Census indicates that 65.5% of the Ames population 25 years or older have a college degree or some college experience with 98.3% graduating high school. Only 1.7% of the Ames population over 25 years of age has less than a high school diploma. Iowa State reports that 31,705 students are attending ISU in the fall 2025, an increase of 673 from the previous year. Websites and phone applications are their main source for information.
- **International Student & Scholars** (free) - CyRide will work with the University's International Student & Scholars (ISS) each fall and spring for incoming ISU students and will offer our services at their orientation sessions on "How to Ride CyRide" for these students and their families. This organization works with various student cultural organizations to disseminate information for different nationalities. CyRide will communicate this orientation with other human service agency providers representing the local LEP constituency for this training. CyRide would work with ISS for translators, upon request, at these meetings.
- **Office of Registrar** (free) - CyRide will continue to make connections to work with the Office of the Registrar to see if additional information can be isolated to account for the number and proportion of LEP persons attending Iowa State University and how to best help these individuals' access CyRide's services. This effort is needed particularly to document the concentration of the Chinese speaking population. This international population seems to have decreased by approximately 30% since 2017.
- **Human/Health Service Agencies** - CyRide currently networks with local human service organizations and the Transportation Collaboration Committee that provides services to LEP individuals and seeks opportunities to provide information on transit services. CyRide will survey these organizations periodically, if needed, to determine if the LEP population has difficulty in accessing CyRide's service from their perspective. Since

CyRide has only had nine instances of contact with LEP individuals over the last three years, a survey is not needed at this time and hasn't been requested by the agencies.

- **Community Partners (City/University/Student Government)** – As CyRide is governed by the City of Ames, Iowa State University (ISU) and the ISU's Student Government. CyRide will utilize these connections to network and search out other limited English speaking groups they may communicate with in their endeavors. These organizations may also have resources to translate materials into alternative languages.

- **Interpreter Services (\$0.82/minute)** – CyRide, as an agency of the City of Ames, has access to language assistance via the Big Word, which is a 24/7/365 Telephone Interpreting service available within the City of Ames Telephone Directory. Any city employee can contact an over the phone interpreter, the Big Word, at any time of the day or night to help



communications between staff and LEP residents. This guidance and procedures are located on the first page of all City of Ames' employee's internal phone books. The awareness of this assistance is communicated through the city orientation process and periodic meetings about services the City of Ames provides. This service supports over 240 languages and has telephone interpreters available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. CyRide would utilize this service mostly for requests when passengers come into the office but could also utilize it for public meetings or if a supervisor were called out to assist a passenger in getting from point A to point B and had communications issues. Several of CyRide's employees also have language skills in alternative languages than English as well as other City employees that are specifically listed in the City of Ames Telephone Directory. CyRide employees have assisted and translated conversations with passengers without having to access the translation service as noted on the LEP log.

According to CyRide policy, drivers cannot utilize cell phones while driving their shift. However, drivers can request help from a supervisor that could utilize the over-the-phone Interpretive Services if needed. CyRide logs these instances within CyRide's LEP log when this occurs. Only nine instances have occurred over the past three years where an individual needed language translation service. (see the attached log).

- **Google Translate on CyRide website (free)** - CyRide has Google Translate available on its website so that customers can view any page of information in their language of choice. Not only can customers translate their information but they can then print their pages to obtain a hard copy within their own preferred language. Efforts will strive to

provide information in html as opposed to making images or PDF's of reports allowing all documents, forms, information be accessible to everyone regardless of nationality or disability. Therefore all written materials in html code (schedules, timetables, detours, alerts, what's new information, ADA applications, Title VI complaint process etc.) would be provided in alternative languages through Google translate. Ames' human service agencies have welcomed this feature as they can access the information for their clientele within their language at a click of a button to translate CyRide's services and provide a printed copy.

- **Font Size Increase/Decrease on CyRide website (free)** –CyRide's website is now able to be printed/viewed in several different size of fonts. In the past, an accommodation was made for a visually impaired passenger requesting a larger print timetable. Staff printed off a new bigger timetable according to what size of print the passenger needed to see the print. Additionally, CyRide has translated the schedule/timetable into Braille for a customer over 20 years ago. No other requests to translate CyRide's Schedule/Timetables into Braille have been made to CyRide in recent years.
- **Facebook/Twitter (free)** CyRide communicates all changes in services, routes, detours, stops, emergencies on its Facebook and X accounts. Anyone that "likes" CyRide's Facebook page can translate their Facebook account. X allows language translation but is more limited on the quantity of languages allowed (Italian, Spanish, English French, German, Japanese). However the postings from CyRide are still in English as posted, which is a limitation of these two programs. For any postings, however; passengers can click on the link taking them back to CyRide's website where the information could then be translated through the html via Google Translate. CyRide has over 3,580 fans on Facebook and nearly 1,895 followers on X.
- **Online Videos/DVD (free)** – CyRide staff has developed two videos instructing the public on "[How to Ride CyRide](#)" and "[How to Read CyRide's Schedule](#)". CyRide has these available on their website and has also distributed these videos to human/health service agencies to play for their clients. This would be a great resource for those with vision disabilities or to those with low-English reading abilities to hear how to access the bus via verbal instruction.
- **Schedules (free)** – CyRide provides its printed schedule in English format as well as on the website. Many years ago, CyRide has utilized a local company in the past to translate schedules from English to Braille and a large print type timetable for a visually impaired person. The cost for the Braille timetable was fairly reasonable rate for translation fees. Braille was also implemented on CyRide's schedule tubes throughout campus per a visually impaired person's request. This enabled the individual to identify their particular location in reference to CyRide's routes. In today's technological world, computers have opened up a new world for the visually impaired as text can be read verbally through programs for the visually impaired. Email, Facebook and X have also

helped the deaf and visually impaired communities as many individuals now have smart phones enabling them to access information more readily. CyRide's supervisors work with our visually impaired passengers to have them added to CyRide's e-mail notification listing, Facebook or X. CyRide redesigned their website in August 2011 and again in 2017 which now allows translations to easily occur on the site as needed in a multitude of languages.

- **Use of English Printed Schedules Only 1%** - Of the nearly 5 million passenger trips transported this past year only 18,000 CyRide Route Timetable/Map brochures are printed in English in any given year for fall and summer service with over 3,500 left over at the end of the year. **Therefore, .4% (18,000/5,000,000 passengers = .4%) of CyRide's riders actually utilize the published map currently printed in English.** Additionally, CyRide typically has maps leftover at the end of each service period and prints less and less every year. The cost to print these brochures are approximately \$8,000 each year. This indicates that the majority of passengers receive their information on CyRide's website or via mobile applications (MyState, Ames Ride, and Transit).
- **Translation Fee for Documents** - CyRide located a business in Des Moines that could translate information into a printable format and this would perhaps be more accurate than Google Translate on the website. The [Iowa International Center \(http://iowainternationalcenter.org/\)](http://iowainternationalcenter.org/) located in Des Moines, Iowa offers translation services at **\$150/hour**. With the declining amount of English speaking individuals using the printed map/timetables, translation into another language wouldn't be a good use of CyRide's funds when its all available digitally.

Most of the Ames population of 64,006 is a highly educated community with **only 1.7% not graduating high school** that is over the age of 25. (See U.S. Census 2023-2018 <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1901855-ames-ia/>) Nearly half of the Ames' population is attending Iowa State University in the Fall 2025 (31,705 students) with many requesting transit information online via the website and now real-time times of buses through mobile phone applications. Therefore, in CyRide staff's opinion the website and mobile applications are more important features to communicate alternative languages than printed materials to the LEP populations as they are to the English-speaking population.

- **Staff Resources (free)** - CyRide does not currently have any supervisory staff fluent in other languages but many will try to assist passengers. In the past, CyRide employees, Iowa State University professors or interns fluent in Chinese translated materials into CyRide's most utilized non-English languages as a "value added service" within the community. These employees have created advertising flyers for public meetings for a potential fare increase, which were then posted in Asian Grocery stores and sent out

via social media. These CyRide employees translated the materials and verified the information was correct prior to posting. CyRide also utilizes a professional translation service company in Des Moines when necessary.

- **Translation (\$125-\$300)** - CyRide hires a professional translation services when sufficient time is available to do so, and the flyers are considered extremely important to access transit services. Specifically, CyRide translated public input meeting flyers when requesting input on the redesign its transit routes in 2017. CyRide advertised these meetings at several Asian grocery stores to get sufficient public input by LEP groups. The translation took approximately a week to develop and therefore this resource can only be utilized for planned outreach to LEP persons. In addition, employees have developed surveys to distribute to Asian churches to ensure the LEP community could utilize technology applications such as the past NextBus predictive real-time service application, now MyRide. Over the last three years, CyRide has requested translations via the Big Word only twice and had contact with LEP residents nine times. Significant modifications of timetables and bus routes haven't changed within the last three years requiring public input.

During the pandemic in 2020, CyRide made critical safety rider alerts during the pandemic to ensure passenger safety as well as new federal masking requirements were understood by our riders. CyRide masked our “Stuff” bus logo and put a visual logo on the bus doors as well as on our website. CyRide covered our fareboxes, placed barriers on the buses and boarded passengers at the rear doors over much of the summer months. Fares were free during this time.



When boarding at the front doors resumed, the following simple rider alert was posted in buses:

Starting JULY 15
Fare Collection and
Front Door Boarding
will resume on CyRide

自七月十五日开始，
爱姆斯公车恢复
由前门上车及收费。

1. Wear a Mask
2. Limit Conversations
3. Wash Your Hands

1. 请戴口罩
2. 避免车内交谈
3. 勤洗手

Four Factor Conclusion

Based on the above data, outreach and communications within the Ames community, CyRide believes there is not a significant LEP population over the Department of Justice's safe-harbor threshold (1,000 individuals or 5% of Ames population) for any language per the American Community Survey estimates.

As CyRide previously did have a Mandarin Chinese LEP population, our vital documents are already translated into that language on our website. CyRide plans to keep these materials active on its website as the expense already occurred. CyRide will continue to evaluate, monitor and provide outreach to all LEP individuals to provide meaningful access to our services and programs.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires all recipients of federal funding develop a language assistance plan in order to ensure they are providing meaningful access to their services, programs and activities. This plan is CyRide’s effort to describe their compliance with [FTA’s Circular 4702.1B](#).

1) Four Factor Analysis Summary Results

As determined through the factor one of the four-factor analysis, CyRide has determined that it does not have an LEP population in any given language of DOJ’s safe-harbor threshold of 1,000 individuals or 5% of the Ames population as evidenced by the most recent available data from the 2018-2023 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates for the City of Ames.

Language Spoken at Home By Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over (C16001)	Speaks language at home	Margin of Error	Speaks English very well	Margin of Error	Speaks English less than very well	Margin of Error	Speaks English less than very well
Total Population > 5 Yrs.	64,006	±250					
Speak only English	55,406	±868					
Spanish:	1,112	±297	966	±233	146	±119	0.20%
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	120	±126	120	±126	0	±24	0.00%
German or other West Germanic languages:	394	±199	356	±196	38	±63	0.10%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	351	±158	248	±138	103	±86	0.20%
Other Indo-European languages:	1,816	±556	1,527	±528	289	±150	0.50%
Korean:	993	±329	428	±196	565	±282	0.90%
Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese):	1,634	±459	641	±199	993	±414	1.60%
Vietnamese:	414	±292	203	±138	211	±168	0.30%
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	178	±172	178	±172	0	±24	0.00%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	789	±296	635	±242	154	±120	0.20%
Arabic:	243	±182	220	±157	23	±33	0.00%
Other and unspecified languages:	556	±190	386	±140	170	±127	0.30%
TOTAL	64,006		5,908		2,692		

Source: American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C16001, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.C16001?q=c16001+language+spoken+that+speaks+english+less+than+very+well+by+&g=160XX00US1901855>.

2) How CyRide Provides Language Assistance

CyRide has instituted the following measures to work with its LEP population in general. Further resources for vital documents have been identified to be translated into LEP languages, if required, for any future defined LEP populations over the safe-harbor threshold (1,000 persons or 5% of Ames population).

Website Translation

Google Translate has been implemented on CyRide's website and available to anyone to click a drop down button to change the language on the site to their preferred language. CyRide's website can translate all forms and vital documents, which includes at a minimum:

1. CyRide Contact Information
2. CyRide policies and transit services on CyRide's website translated via Google Translate
 - a. Route/timetable information
 - b. Fare Information
 - c. Pass Sales Outlets Locations
 - d. Detours & Alerts information – sent out via Rider Alert emails, Facebook and Twitter as well as to stops in real-time bus information.
 - e. ADA Accessible Services Information
 - f. ADA Complimentary Paratransit Application Form
 - g. Outside Ames Transportation (Airport Shuttle, Regional Intercity Buses, Service to University of Iowa City Hospitals & Clinics, Story County Public Transit Service)
 - h. Title VI Complaint Procedures
 - i. Title VI Complaint Form
 - j. Reasonable Accommodation information

Interpretive Services

CyRide staff first identifies LEP persons who may need language assistance. CyRide staff will examine records to see if requests for language assistance have been received in the past, either at meetings or over the phone, to determine whether language assistance might be needed at future events or meetings. CyRide staff will also greet participants as they arrive at a CyRide sponsored event such as a public meeting. By informally engaging participants in conversation it is possible to gauge each attendee's ability to speak and understand English. CyRide will access an interpreter service if needed. Additionally, public meetings will often require the person to sign in and therefore this information could be more easily attained. CyRide can also determine the language of LEP individuals requesting information at CyRide's offices, CyRide public meetings or on-route by transit supervisor with ["I speak cards."](#) If additional time is needed to work with a passenger, it is CyRide's policy to call out a supervisor on route to help communicate with the LEP person. Drivers would then be free to continue service for the remaining passengers.

If interpretive services are needed, the following mechanisms are utilized.

1. Interpreter Services: An interpreter will be called for assistance via “Big Word” 24/7/365 phone service as needed if confusion arises between a LEP person and CyRide staff. This will most frequently be used in-office where telephones are available but could also be utilized by a supervisor out on route if requested by a driver to assist with an LEP passenger if a cell phone was available. Any utilization of an interpreter will be documented within CyRide’s LEP log. There were nine instances of use of this service over the last three years. The log is available upon request during our triennial review.
2. I Speak Cards: CyRide will determine language of LEP individuals requesting information at CyRide’s offices, CyRide public meetings or on-route by transit supervisor with [“I speak cards.”](#) Unfortunately, CyRide bus operators will not typically be able to stop and assist the customer and will call a mobile supervisor for assistance. Any utilization of an interpreter or I speak cards will be documented within CyRide’s Title VI frequency of contact log.
3. Picture Graphics: CyRide’s Lost and Found Department implemented a graphic picture system with many lost items photo/words identified in other languages (Chinese, Korean, Spanish, etc) staff may have encountered.
4. Public Notice of Interpreter Services: Placement of statement in public meeting notices that interpreter services are available for meetings, within a 72 hour advance notice. The City of Ames’ has indicated that the City Clerk would obtain interpretive services if requested given 72 hours’ notice. Any utilization of an interpreter will be documented within CyRide’s LEP log.

English Verbal Dissemination of CyRide Services via public television stations

CyRide has instituted English public service announcements (How to Ride video, How to Read a Schedule video, etc) on the [City Channel 12](#) that could inform LEP individuals of how to access CyRide bus information. This would help eliminate barriers to those individuals that have trouble reading English but not necessarily understanding English verbally. Several Human Service Agencies indicate that some LEP persons understand English verbally instead of the written word in a brochure in many instances. These videos are available at <https://www.cyride.com/i-want-to/ride/cyride-learn-how>.

3) Notice of Availability of Language Assistance

CyRide’s LEP Plan documenting the availability of language assistance is available on CyRide’s website at www.cyride.com/civilrights as well as within CyRide’s Title VI notice to the public available on all CyRide buses, CyRide office front office entry and public meeting rooms. Documentation of CyRide’s language assistance is also available at www.cyride.com/language-assistance.

As LEP plans are updated every three years, these plans will also be available through

Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) updates (required every five years) as required by the Iowa Department of Transportation. As a result, the LEP will be dispersed to all transportation providers and human service agencies participating in the PTP process. Any person or agency may request a digital/written copy of the LEP Plan via telephone, fax, mail or in person. Limited English proficient persons may request copies of the LEP Plan in alternative languages from CyRide or may download the plan themselves in English from the website and translate via Google Translate.

4) Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the LEP Plan

CyRide's LEP Plan will be reviewed and updated every three years through the Title VI Program Update, when new American Community Survey numbers are typically available as well as periodically through the coordinated human services- transit provider plan process (AAMPO's Passenger Transportation Plan Update) as required by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Specifically, CyRide will continue to conduct the following efforts towards to provide meaningful access to LEP persons within the Ames community.

Limited English Proficient Persons Documentation

- a. ***American Community Survey*** - CyRide will continue to periodically evaluate the LEP population by language as defined by the ACS via the U.S. Census to ensure additional populations do not traverse over the safe harbor threshold of limited English proficient persons. Once there is any significant concentration of LEP persons not speaking English very well over the 1,000 person threshold in other languages, CyRide will work to update its plan to provide written vital documents in that particular LEP language(s).
- b. ***Documentation of LEP Contact*** - CyRide will document the LEP individuals served each year and determine their preferred national language if communication in English is a barrier or limitation to receiving CyRide services. This includes instances, connections, occurrences between LEP persons and CyRide staff including clerks (phone/general e-mail staff), dispatchers and supervisors. Based upon this list, senior staff will review to determine if language assistance may be improved or if any internal procedural changes are necessary to ensure all CyRide programs, services or activities are accessible to LEP persons.
- c. ***Number of language assistance related complaints*** – CyRide has had zero language assistance related Title VI complaints over the past three years.
- d. ***Changes in the frequency of contact with specific languages by staff***- CyRide has assessed that frequency of contact with specific language has remained relatively stagnant with only nine instances over the past three years based on the LEP log and lack of use of the language line for two instances.

Networking/Outreach

- e. **LEP Groups** – Continue seeking opportunities to provide information on CyRide's service to Limited English-Speaking groups such as Engaging International Spouses, BOLD multicultural students, etc.
- f. **Human Service Organizations** - Network with local human service organizations (Human Service Agencies in Story County and United Way's Transportation Collaboration

Committee) that provide services to LEP individuals; seek input regarding the coordinated human service/transportation provider plan (Passenger Transportation Plan), which is the first public input for transportation projects prior to being placed in the Transportation Improvement Plan or Work Program.

- g. **International Students & Scholars (ISS)** – CyRide will continue working with the International Student & Scholars representatives to address any needs for international students from other countries. This office is the expert within the community working with the international student population and LEP populations. They are the experts on communicating with this population segment within the Ames community.
- h. **Orientation Services:** CyRide will work with ISS to be available for their fall/spring/summer orientation sessions as they request.

Surveys

- i. **Employee Surveys:** Drivers, mechanics and administrative staff will be surveyed, as deemed necessary, at their employee meetings for frequency of contact with LEP persons throughout the year.
- j. **Passenger/Resident Surveys:** Surveys to passengers/public will request minority and low-income information demographics to detail needs by these particular groups. CyRide has requested that the City of Ames place this vital information within their City Residential Satisfaction survey for future Residential city-wide surveys.

Since the last Title VI Submission the following data has been compiled:

1. **Number of LEP person contacts documented** – 9
2. **Use of interpretive over the phone language services** – 2
3. **Determination if interpretative services have been effective and sufficient to meet the needs** - Language interpretative services has been used 11 times over the past three years. Staff validated that the LEP book and standard operating procedures in how to access the language line services is readily available at the front desk and mobile vehicle tackle boxes prior to submitting this document to FTA.

Communication with CyRide’s front desk staff indicates that the resources for these interpretative services, while not utilized often is effective and sufficient to meet their needs if there is a situation where they cannot communicate with a person in English. This LEP book also houses the “I speak” cards and picture graphic cards for lost & found providing a great resource for this position. They specifically note which type of item is lost in picture and word format in their specific language.

Additionally, drivers have been advised to call CyRide Dispatch if they have difficulty communicating with LEP passengers at any time. Supervisors would then be deployed to help communicate with the passenger one-on-one while allowing the driver to continue their service route. Most drivers indicate they don’t utilize this option much and are able to communicate with the LEP person most of the time by pointing on the map. LEP persons seem to understand their instruction even with limited English proficiency skills.

After advertising language line services for the past year in the notice to the public and posting language assistance services online, there doesn't seem to be much additional use of the service. The language line has only been utilized twice in the past three years. Staff will continue to make operations staff aware of the language line availability. Education of this communications tool is good to always routinely promote in meetings.

There have been comments about CyRide having Mandarin Chinese notices posted at grocery stores around the Ames metro for public meeting notices. Passengers did comment on X when we translated public hearing meeting notices for the system redesign process in 2017 and we had several Asian individuals attend the meetings as a result. Although, all Asians that attended were able to communicate their needs in English. Perhaps more involvement from the Asian community occurred during these meetings as a result of the translated posting that in previous meetings regarding services.

4. **Determine if CyRide has fully complied with the goals of the LEP plan.** CyRide believes it has fully complied with the goals of the previous LEP Plan. CyRide began implementing Chinese language on buses for signing with any new bus purchase. (i.e. images that show how to open the back door by waving will have that information written in English and Mandarin Chinese.) Maintenance staff indicates that this signage was approximately \$1,000 per bus. Therefore, it would be \$83,000 to equip the entire large bus fleet which is unreasonable. CyRide will providing Mandarin Chinese signage on its new vehicle purchases through future procurements, even though the LEP population is under the DOJ's safe-harbor threshold.
5. **Determine if complaints have been received concerning CyRide's failure to meet the needs of LEP individuals.** There have been no complaints from LEP individuals or any Title VI complaints over the last three years.

5) Staff Training

The following training will be provided to CyRide staff:

- a. Dissemination of CyRide's Title VI complaint procedures are provided within CyRide's Driver manual. CyRide employees are also provided a copy of the Title VI Program and LEP Plan on an annual basis. Annually, Operations staff (front desk, Dispatch, CyRide Secretary, Operations Supervisor and Assistant Director for Operations) would discuss how CyRide handles LEP complaints by following documented Title VI procedures as well as within management meetings to ensure procedures are followed. CyRide will also periodically provide information to drivers on Title VI procedures within CyRide's employee newsletter, Signals.
- b. LEP awareness training is currently included in incoming driver training to employees in how to communicate with our LEP population as well as procedures if difficulties with communication arise. Internal CyRide staff is then trained on how to utilize the Interpretive Language Services available to help passengers.
- c. LEP instances on the bus and in the office (email, phone, and letter) and requests for

interpretive services through public meetings are documented. How to log these requests would be communicated to all CyRide staff. Any instances and requests for interpretive services would be filed with Assistant Director for Operations as a Title VI request and documented on a fiscal year basis.

Questions or comments regarding the LEP Plan may be submitted to:

CyRide
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