



**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**  
**AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on February 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Norton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with Trustees Boland, Junck, Lee, Rolwes, and Schinker present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Director Neal welcomed two new board members: Rachel Junck, the Ames City Council representative, and Erik Rolwes, the ISU Student Government Senator appointee.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2025, MINUTES:**

Trustee Junck made a motion to adopt the January 16, 2025, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Rolwes seconded the motion. (Ayes: 6 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – FUNDING REQUEST FY 2029:**

Director Neal requested approval to submit a Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) of \$400,000 to help fund the replacement of a standard 40' bus. The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (AAMPO) grant applications for the FY 2029 budget year are due March 31.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1, to approve a grant request of \$400,000 in federal STBG funds from the AAMPO. These funds would support planned bus purchases and help CyRide build a more efficient and maintainable fleet.

Trustee Boland made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Junck seconded the motion. (Ayes: 6 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

**MONTHLY REPORT:**

**Spring Semester Ridership Update:** Ridership continues to trend positively and is up an average of 3.9% compared to last year.

**Dial-A-Ride Survey and Contract:** The annual Dial-A-Ride (DAR) survey began on February 19. Results will be presented at a future Transit Board meeting. FY 2026 is the third year of the contract with Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) for providing DAR services. CyRide will work with HIRTA to confirm that they are interested in continuing to provide DAR services on behalf of CyRide.

**Ames Intermodal Facility Leases:** The Ames Intermodal Facility has three tenants: HIRTA, Jefferson Lines, and the Ames Police Department. The two commercial tenants pay a monthly rate, which is evaluated annually based on the Producer Price Index (PPI) change from December to December. This past year, the PPI increased by 1.4%. CyRide and the Executive Committee will work together to determine how they want to proceed with the FY 2026 lease amounts.

**Token Transit:** CyRide went live with Token Transit on January 21, allowing passengers to purchase fares on their smartphones. Sales began immediately and CyRide will continue to push out promotional materials about the app to passengers.

**Second Quarterly Report:** The second quarter report was presented to the board. Ridership has increased 8.5% year-to-date, equaling 204,000 additional rides. The average number of part-time drivers is up 14.8%, adding about 20 more drivers to the team.

**Spring meeting dates:**

- March 27, 5:00 p.m.
- April 17, 5:00 p.m.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Boland made a motion to adjourn at 5:13 p.m.; Trustee Junck seconded the motion. (Ayes: 6 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

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Michael Norton, President

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Cheryl Spencer, Recording Secretary