



**MARCH 27, 2025**

**AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Norton called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. with Trustees Boland, Junck, Lee, Rolwes, and Schinker present.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2025, MINUTES:**

Trustee Junck made a motion to adopt the February 20, 2025, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Lee seconded the motion. (Ayes: 6 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**HIRTA CONTRACT AND ANNUAL CUSTOMER SURVEY:**

Director Neal requested approval to continue subcontracting CyRide's complementary paratransit service, Dial-A-Ride (DAR). CyRide is currently in a three-year contract with HIRTA for DAR services, with the option to extend the contract by two additional years. FY 2026 would represent the third year of the contract. Three areas were presented to the board to assist in the decision-making process: the annual DAR survey results, performance measures, and the proposed contract rates.

In summary, the DAR survey results showed that 85.8% of respondents were satisfied with HIRTA's service overall. This number is down from 92.9% last year; however, with only 14 people responding, CyRide is cautious about drawing a broad conclusion. CyRide will continue conversations with HIRTA about feedback on scheduling and the app. HIRTA has added drivers to help address customer concerns about ride availability and long ride times.

For performance measures, CyRide proposed modifying two performance goals. First, the cost per passenger goal should be updated to \$21.00 to reflect the new contract rate. Second, the number of passenger rides occurring before or after the pick-up window should be increased to 1,315 occurrences or less. HIRTA was aggregable to these modifications.

HIRTA has expressed interest in continuing to provide DAR services on CyRide's behalf. They have proposed a 3.5% rate increase for weekdays and 0.25% on nights and weekends.

Director Neal presented an amendment to the HIRTA contract. HIRTA requested an amendment to allow them to carry Physical Damage insurance on the CyRide-owned vehicle they use. CyRide does not require this type of insurance, but HIRTA would like to carry it, which requires an amendment to the contract. The insurance would be at HIRTA's expense, and the amendment clarified that they would be responsible for all costs associated with the coverage.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1, to approve the amendment and continue the contract with HIRTA, which has proven to be a cost-effective approach to serving individuals who need specialized transportation. It maintains consistent service for passengers while avoiding the high cost associated with CyRide directly operating the service.

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

### **APPROVAL OF ARTICULATED BUS PURCHASE CHANGE ORDERS:**

Director Neal requested approval of bus specification change orders for the purchase of the two 60' articulated buses. At the meeting on September 19, 2024, the board approved the purchase of two 60' articulated buses from New Flyer of America Inc. of St. Cloud, MN, for a base price of \$972,010 per bus. The board approved a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,967,741 since vehicle pricing is not finalized until late in the process. Since then, CyRide worked with New Flyer to finalize vehicle specifications to ensure the buses are consistent with the rest of the fleet. Approximately \$108,000 in changes have been identified for the two buses or approximately \$54,000 per bus. To support the changes, CyRide recommended using funding from the 40' Bus Replacement Reserve Fund. The buses are scheduled to begin production in August 2025.

Director Neal recommended approval of Alternative #1, to approve the proposed change orders and establish a new contract amount of \$2,052,362.58 for the purchase of two 60' articulated buses with New Flyer of America Inc. of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Approving the change orders would ensure the new buses are consistent with CyRide's fleet and built for long-term durability, as well as supporting the goal of the #23 Orange route being operated entirely with articulated buses.

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

### **MONTHLY REPORT:**

**Fuel Contract:** CyRide's fuel contract RFP will be prepared and presented for board approval in the upcoming months.

**Recent Legislative Updates:** CyRide staff have been actively working at the state and federal levels to support ongoing transit funding and policy improvements.

**Token Transit:** Token Transit has continued growing, with 191 passes sold to 75 users thus far.

### **Spring meeting dates:**

- April 17, 5:00 p.m.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Lee made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 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