



NOVEMBER 20, 2025
AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on November 20, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Boland called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. with Trustees Junck, Lee, Neal, and Schainker present.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2025, MINUTES:

Trustee Junck made a motion to adopt the October 16, 2025, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Schainker seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

RATE SETTING RESOLUTION – FY 2027 BUDGET:

Director Neal requested board approval of the rate setting resolution to annually establish CyRide's fare and rate structure for the upcoming budget year. For FY 2027, current fare levels were maintained for fixed-route and Dial-A-Ride services. Two updates were recommended to support operational needs and improve customer convenience. One change was to add 3-, 6-, and 12-month bus pass options on Token Transit beginning January 1, 2026. The other change was to update the shop and shuttle rate from \$105.00 to \$135 per hour to better align with current service costs.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve the Rate Setting Resolution for the FY 2027 budget year, which would add digital bus pass options and update the Miscellaneous Revenue Rates. Doing so would maintain the existing fare structure for riders, introduce a digital pass option to enhance convenience and encourage community ridership, and update internal rates to reflect current costs and industry benchmarks.

Trustee Junck made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Neal seconded the motion.

(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ACCESSION OF AMES PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
ACCESSIBLE MAP-ENVISIONING SCULPTURE PROJECT:**

Director Neal requested board approval of the accession of seven sculptures along the Red Route as recommended by the Public Art Commission (PAC). The sculptures are intended to be wayfinding art pieces that will help riders with disabilities, those with language barriers, and anyone unfamiliar with the area. Each sculpture would be placed on its own concrete pad next to the shelter, would not obstruct visibility, and PAC would be responsible for all installation, maintenance, and related costs. On June 16, 2025, PAC, in coordination with the Purchasing Division, issued Request for Proposal No. 2025-184 to commission an artist. After the evaluation process, PAC recommended Tim Adams of Webster City, Iowa, for his design featuring natural leaves and plant motifs.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve the accession of seven leaf-themed sculptures for the Red Route Shelter Program, as recommended by PAC. Doing so will help passengers with wayfinding and add artistic elements and public art for all to enjoy at several stops along the Red Route.

Trustee Junck made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Neal seconded the motion.

(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF 40' DIESEL BUSES:

Director Neal requested board approval for the purchase of two 40' diesel buses. CyRide was awarded two grants to replace two 40' buses that are 22 years old and past their useful life. The majority of CyRide's 40' bus fleet is Gillig, which has proven to be both cost-effective and reliable. Standardizing the fleet allows CyRide to save money by reducing parts inventory, lowering training costs, and speeding up repair times. Pricing was obtained from Gillig, resulting in a cost per bus of \$726,911 with a total purchase price of \$1,453,822. The total available funding is \$1,284,992. An additional \$168,830 in local funding would be required to purchase both buses. Staff recommended the funding come from the 40' Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve the award of contract for two 40' heavy-duty diesel buses to Gillig LLC of Livermore, California, for an amount of \$1,453,822. Doing so would replace obsolete buses with new vehicles, improve efficiency, and reduce overall fleet emissions using newer, cleaner-burning engines. Trustee Schainker asked whether there were any other previously planned items or projects for the reserve fund. Director Neal said there was not.

Trustee Schainker made a motion to approve Alternative #1, modified to be approval of award of contract for two 40' heavy-duty diesel buses to Gillig LLC of Livermore, California, for an amount of \$1,453,822, with additional funding of \$168,830 being used from the 40' Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund; Trustee Junck seconded the motion.

(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Director Neal requested board approval to purchase on-board Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for seven new CyRide buses. ITS technology on CyRide's vehicles provides several key features the bus system requires: stop announcements, visual wayfinding, APC live occupancy data, and real-time bus locations for mobile apps. CyRide recently received five battery electric buses, and two articulated buses will arrive soon. Based on pricing during the build process, it was determined that installing ITS equipment after delivery would be more cost-effective. CyRide's current ITS vendor, GMV Syncromatics, provided pricing for equipment and installation totaling \$143,442. Staff recommended the funding come from the 40' Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Trustee Junck asked how much it would have cost to have this done during the build. Assistant Director of Fleet and Facilities James Rendall answered that it would have been approximately \$35,000 per bus.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve award of purchase to GMV Syncromatics of Los Angeles, California, for a total cost of \$143,442 for ITS equipment on CyRide's seven new buses. Doing so will improve the rider experience, support passengers with disabilities, and help all riders better navigate the system.

Trustee Junck made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Schainker seconded the motion.

(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Trustee Norton joined the meeting.

MONTHLY REPORT:

Resident Satisfaction Survey: The results of the annual Resident Satisfaction Survey were presented to the board.

Winter Season Preparation: Maintenance staff have begun winter preparations for snow removal. Operations staff have been working with drivers to prepare them for winter driving techniques.

Theodore and Mr. Gobbles: They were on the buses during the month of November, bringing cheer to riders and the community.

Quarterly Report: The fourth quarter report was presented to the board. Ridership is up 5.1% year to date. CyRide has seen ridership increases on the Orange, Red, Cherry, and Gold routes. CyRide is also seeing strong growth on the Token Transit App, with increased in both unique riders and boardings using the pass.

Fall meeting dates:

- December 18, 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: Trustee Lee made a motion to adjourn at 4:54 p.m.; Trustee Junck seconded the motion.

(Ayes: 6 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Emily Boland, President

Cheryl Spencer, Recording Secretary