



Transit Board Meeting
AGENDA

**AMES TRANSIT AGENCY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CYRIDE CONFERENCE ROOM – April 16, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2026
3. Public Comments
4. Oil and Lubricants Contract Change Order
5. HIRTA Contract and Annual Customer Survey
6. State Grant and Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) Applications
7. Monthly Report
8. Summer Meeting Dates / Times
 - May 21, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
 - June 18, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
 - July 16, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
9. Adjourn

MARCH 19, 2026

AMES TRANSIT AGENCY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Ames Transit Agency Board of Trustees met on March 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the CyRide Conference room. President Boland called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., with Trustees Junck, Lee, and Neal present.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2025, AND JANUARY 15, 2026, MINUTES:

Trustee Norton made a motion to adopt the December 18, 2025, and January 15, 2026, Transit Board minutes as presented; Trustee Neal seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

40' DIESEL BUS PURCHASE CHANGE ORDER:

Director Neal requested board approval of a change order for the purchase of two 40' diesel buses. In October 2024, the board approved the purchase of two 40' diesel buses from Gillig using the State of Washington contract with a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,256,996. After the contract was awarded, new federal tariff policies and some operational design revisions affected the final vehicle pricing. The combined increase for both buses is \$32,497.82, which is 2.59% of the overall project budget. To address this issue, staff recommended using available STBG funding; therefore, no additional local funding would be required.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve the cost-related change order and establish a new total contract amount of \$1,289,493.82 for the purchase of two 40' heavy-duty diesel buses from Gillig LLC of Livermore, California. Approving the change order would be necessary to complete acceptance of the vehicles into the fleet.

Trustee Norton made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Junck seconded the motion. (Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF 40' DIESEL BUSES:

Director Neal requested board approval to purchase six 40' diesel buses. CyRide has been awarded several grants to replace six buses that are 23 years old and past their useful life. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds were reallocated to support this purchase. Pricing was received from Gillig at \$726,911 per bus for a total contract amount of \$4,361,466.

Director Neal requested board approval of Alternative #1, to approve the award of contract for six 40' heavy-duty diesel buses to Gillig LLC of Livermore, California, for an amount of \$4,361,466, contingent upon approval of the 2026 STBG grant. Replacing the obsolete buses will improve service reliability, reduce fleet emissions, and support CyRide's federal Transit Asset Management plan goals.

Trustee Norton made a motion to approve Alternative #1; Trustee Neal seconded the motion.
(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORT:

Spring Semester Ridership Update: Ridership has closely mirrored last year's spring service patterns, with overall system usage trending upward. Total ridership for the first four weeks was up 4.8% compared to the same period last year.

Dial-A-Ride Survey and Contract: CyRide is currently conducting the annual Dial-A-Ride survey to gather customer feedback.

Fuel Update: Fuel prices have experienced increased volatility recently. CyRide currently anticipates remaining within the overall adopted fuel budget, but will continue to monitor fuel closely and bring action items to the board should fuel pricing approach the budgeted level.

Ames Intermodal Facility Leases: The monthly lease rate is based on the Producer Price Index (PPI), with rent adjustments effective July 1. The PPI increased 2.0%, and the FY 2027 lease rates will reflect the 2.0% adjustment.

Public Transit Management System (PTMS) Bus Replacement Funding: At the May 12, 2025, Transit Board meeting, the Board approved CyRide's state grant application to replace up to nineteen 40' buses that have exceeded their useful life. The state is currently working with transit systems to finalize project funding allocations, and it will be brought to the board once final award information is available.

Second Quarterly Report: The second quarterly report was reviewed.

Spring/Summer meeting dates:

- April 16, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
- May 21, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
- June 18, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
- July 16, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: Trustee Norton made a motion to adjourn at 4:43 p.m.; Trustee Junck seconded the motion.
(Ayes: 5 Nays: 0) Motion carried.

Emily Boland, President

Cheryl Spencer, Recording Secretary



April 16, 2026
Oil and Lubricants Contract Change Order
CyRide Resource: James Rendall

BACKGROUND:

CyRide partners with the Fleet Services department to purchase oil and lubricants using a joint contract to provide the best possible pricing and streamline the purchasing process. The current contract started July 1, 2022, and was awarded to Diamond Oil Company of Des Moines, Iowa. In February 2025, Heritage Petroleum LLC of Evansville, Indiana, purchased Diamond Oil Company and assumed the existing oil and lubricants contract. The contract is currently in its fourth year of up to a five-year contract.

The contract renewal for FY 2026 was approved by the City Council as part of the joint Fleet Services and CyRide contract, with CyRide's portion estimated at \$34,000, which is below the Transit Board approval threshold.

After the contract renewal was awarded, CyRide received invoices totaling \$12,419.99 from Heritage Petroleum LLC for the previous fiscal year that were not billed until the current fiscal year. Due to their late receipt, these invoices could not be taken into account when determining FY 2026's contracted amount. As a result, CyRide's purchases of oil and lubricants for this fiscal year have exceeded the \$34,000 Council approved amount.

To account for the prior year's invoices and anticipated remaining usage for FY 2026, CyRide is requesting a change order to increase the contract amount to \$62,000. The revised total reflects the addition of the prior-year invoices plus expected usage levels for oil and lubricants. Due to CyRide's total portion of the contract amount exceeding \$50,000, Transit Board approval is required prior to proceeding. Staff have evaluated the commodities budget and determined that this change order will not exceed the total budgeted amount.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the change order increasing CyRide's portion of the oil and lubricants contract to \$62,000 with Heritage Petroleum of Evansville, IN.
2. Direct staff to proceed according to Transit Board priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1, to approve a change order increasing CyRide's portion of the oil and lubricants contract to \$62,000 for FY 2026. Approval of this change order is necessary to support ongoing operations and ensure continuity of the joint contract with Fleet Services.

April 16, 2026
HIRTA Contract and Annual Customer Survey
CyRide Resource: Christine Crippen, Barbara Neal

BACKGROUND:

CyRide is required by the federal government to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) door-to-door bus service in the Ames community. In 2003, CyRide began contracting Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service to a third-party Story County transit provider to operate DAR in conjunction with their regular services. Since 2012, the contract for DAR service has been with the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA).

During the May 2023 Transit Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved a new three-year contract with HIRTA for DAR service, with an option to extend the contract for an additional two years. If the Transit Board approves the continuation of DAR services with HIRTA, FY 2027 would represent the fourth year of this agreement.

Annual Survey

CyRide conducts an annual DAR survey to gather customer feedback on overall satisfaction and identify service improvement opportunities. The survey helps CyRide monitor performance and provide feedback to the contractor. HIRTA provided a list of passengers who used the service in the past year, and CyRide contacted them to complete a customer satisfaction survey. The survey was conducted via phone and email starting March 2, 2026.

The following are the general highlights from this year's survey and variations from last year:

- **Overall Satisfaction:** Overall satisfaction with the DAR service has increased from last year, with 88.9% "satisfied" and "very satisfied", up from 85.8% in the previous survey.
- **Service Improvement:** This year, 20% of respondents felt the service "had improved" over the past year, up from 15.4% in the previous survey.
- **Reservations:** Five questions were asked regarding different aspects of the reserving/scheduling process. Call-taker professionalism remained high, with 80% responding "always" to being professionally greeted, a slight decrease from last year. 30% of customers indicated they were "always" able to schedule within 1 hour of their requested time, and 50.0% indicated they were "usually" able to schedule within 1 hour of their requested time.
- **Driver Actions:** Driver satisfaction increased to 100%, up from 92.9% last year. Drivers requesting the correct fare decreased from 76.9% in the previous year to 60%.

- **General Comments/Suggestions:** Comments about dissatisfaction on DAR focused on not having enough drivers and on rides being scheduled and canceled because a driver was unavailable.

In summary, overall satisfaction remains high, but it has declined from last year. Driver satisfaction improved, while scheduling concerns, particularly with the app and ride availability, were noted in the survey. These will remain key discussion points with HIRTA.

DAR Performance Goals

The Transit Board and CyRide have established performance goals for DAR service with HIRTA to help ensure high-quality service for passengers. CyRide regularly monitors these measures and works with HIRTA to make necessary improvements. In FY 2025, HIRTA carried 16,249 passengers on DAR service, compared to 14,608 in FY 2024 and 13,783 in FY 2023.

HIRTA Performance Measures

Type of Measure	Performance Measure	Goal	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023
Financial	Cost/Passenger	\$21.00	\$20.76	\$20.88	\$18.43
Quality	Passengers/Comment	1,000	1,477	7,304	13,783
Quality	Passenger Rides Before/After Pick-up Window	1,315	764	1,168	1,017
Efficiency	Passengers/Revenue Hour	1.5	3.7	3.5	2.9
Safety	Passenger Injuries	0	0	0	0
Quality/Efficiency	On-Time Performance*	91.0%	95.4%	92.0%	92.6%

Note: Based on end-of-year quarterly reports and calendar year (December) data.

**Defined as 10 minutes before or after the scheduled pick-up time*

As part of the contract with HIRTA, performance goals can be re-evaluated and adjusted annually upon mutual agreement. CyRide is proposing an adjustment to one measure, increasing the passengers per revenue hour goal to 2.5 to better reflect current service efficiency. No changes are recommended to other performance measures, as current results meet or exceed established goals.

Contract Renewal

CyRide has begun discussions with HIRTA regarding renewal of the DAR contract for the FY 2027 budget year. HIRTA has expressed interest in continuing to provide DAR service on CyRide's behalf. The following table compares the current and proposed rates:

HIRTA Contract Rate for DAR Service

Rate Category	FY 2027 Rate	FY 2026 Rate	% Change
Weekday Trips	\$21.38 per trip*	\$20.86 per trip*	2.5%
Weeknight Trips	\$51.78 per hour	\$51.78 per hour	0.0%
Weekend Trips	\$51.78 per hour	\$51.78 per hour	0.0%

**Per trip rates are used Monday through Friday during the day when DAR and HIRTA passengers are combined on one bus.*

The per-hour rate is used only when DAR service is operated on evenings and weekends.

The proposed increases align with industry standards for transit operating contracts. This year's weekday percentage increase is lower than last year's, with an increase of 2.5% compared to 3.5%. The cost per hour and per trip remains lower than CyRide's cost to provide the service directly.

Federal Financial Support

CyRide anticipates receiving approximately \$515,000 in Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) federal funding next year to support services, which include operating costs for contracted DAR services. If CyRide were to operate the DAR service directly, Section 5310 funding could not be used for operating costs, requiring CyRide to finance operations entirely with local funds. By continuing to contract the service, CyRide can utilize this federal funding to cover 80% of operational costs and purchase any necessary capital equipment at an 85% federal share.

If the Board chooses not to continue contracting with HIRTA and instead operate the service directly, CyRide would need to hire additional staff and invest in scheduling software to manage trip reservations.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve continuing the contract with Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) for FY 2027 at a 2.5% increase for weekday trips.
2. Direct staff to proceed according to Transit Board priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1, to continue the contract with HIRTA to provide DAR service for the next fiscal year. Continuing this contract supports the federally required complementary paratransit system for the Ames community, maintains consistent service for passengers, and avoids the high cost associated with CyRide directly operating the DAR service.



Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency HIRTA Public Transit

Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren Counties

04/08/2026

Subject: Contract Renewal Request for FY2027 – ADA Paratransit Services

Dear Barb Neal,

On behalf of the Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA), I am pleased to express our interest in continuing our partnership with CyRide to provide Complimentary ADA Paratransit services in the City of Ames. We greatly value this collaboration, which has proven to be beneficial for HIRTA, CyRide, and—most importantly—the riders we serve. We look forward to the opportunity to renew our contract for Fiscal Year 2027.

As part of this renewal, we are requesting an adjustment in compensation to account for increased operational costs. The proposed updates are as follows:

1. **Weekday Trips (6:30 AM – 6:00 PM):** Increase from \$19.29 to \$21.38 per trip (2.5% increase).
2. **Weekday Night Trips (After 6:00 PM):** Remains at \$51.78 per hour (no increase).
3. **Weekend Trips (Saturday/Sunday):** Remains at \$51.78 per hour (no increase).
4. **Fuel Surcharge:** No requested change.
5. **No-Show Fee:** Remains at \$7.00 per trip (no increase)

While the 2027 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is set at 2.8%, we believe 2.5% is a fair increase on weekday trips, with no increase requested on Week night or Weekend trips. We also will keep the fuel charge and no-show fees the same as FY2026.

To maximize efficiency and control operational costs, we continue to combine HIRTA and CyRide paratransit trips whenever possible.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to the continued success of our partnership in serving the Ames community. Please let us know if you require any further information or discussion.

Sincerely,

Julia Castillo, CEO
Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA)

Dial-A-Ride Survey Comparison

Question/Response	2026	2025	2024
1. How many times over the last 12 months have you ridden Dial-A-Ride services?			
1. I have not ridden	18.2%	7.1%	0.0%
2. Less than 4 times a year	0.0%	14.4%	14.3%
3. Once a month	18.2%	14.3%	14.3%
4. Twice a month	9.1%	0.0%	21.4%
5. Once a week	27.3%	21.4%	14.3%
6. Several times a week	9.1%	35.7%	35.7%
7. Daily	18.2%	7.1%	0.0%
2. Overall, over the past twelve months, how satisfied are you with the service you have been provided by DAR service?			
1. Very dissatisfied	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
2. Dissatisfied	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3. Somewhat Satisfied	11.1%	7.1%	7.1%
4. Satisfied	33.3%	35.8%	35.8%
5. Very Satisfied	55.6%	50.0%	57.1%
3. Has Dial-A-Ride service improved this year?			
1. Improved	20.0%	15.4%	21.4%
2. About the same	70.0%	61.5%	71.4%
3. Not improved	10.0%	23.1%	7.2%
4. Please respond to the following questions by circling the number that best describes your experience in the last 12 months with service. (Respondents indicating "always")			
1. Reserve trips, professionally/politely greeted?	80.0%	100.0%	85.7%
2. When scheduling trips, received a busy signal?	10.0%	7.7%	7.1%
3. When scheduling trips, put on hold for more than 3 mins.?	10.0%	15.4%	28.6%
4. When calling on the weekend to reserve a trip, call returned by 8 pm on Sunday?	10.0%	0.0%	40.0%
5. Ride scheduled within 1 hour of time requested	30.0%	41.7%	42.9%
6. Bus/Van clean and in good working condition	60.0%	76.9%	71.4%
7. Bus driver polite and helpful	100.0%	92.9%	85.7%
8. Wheelchair is tied down and anchored securely to the floor	100.0%	85.7%	87.5%
9. Bus driver charged the correct fare	60.0%	76.9%	78.6%
10. ADA card processed promptly	57.1%	72.7%	80.0%
5. Do you utilize HIRTA's AMBLE app to schedule, cancel trips, manage trips or pay for trips?			
1. Yes	54.6%	42.9%	64.3%
2. No	45.5%	57.1%	35.7%
6. If the bus arrives early, do you feel that you are pressured to come out early to the bus?			
1. Yes	18.2%	57.1%	61.5%
2. No	27.3%	42.9%	38.5%

Dial-A-Ride Survey Comparison

Question/Response	2026	2025	2024
7. Has a request for a trip been turned down (excluding a same day ride request) by the HIRTA's staff this past year so that you were not able to take the trip using Dial-A-Ride? (ADA regulations allow trips to be negotiated in 1 hour blocks before/after the requested time. If the 'negotiated time' an hour before/after your request does not meet your expectations to book your trip, this is not a denial)			
1. Yes	27.3%	14.3%	0.0%
2. No	72.7%	85.7%	100.0%
8. If your trip request was turned down, what was the reason you were given by the person you talked with on the phone?			
9. While requesting a ride or riding Dial-A-Ride service, have you ever felt you were personally being discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin (ancestry), or your lack of ability to speak English?			
1. Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2. No	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
10. If yes to the #9 question, please explain the situation below.			
11. Please check the reason you ride Dial-A-Ride service.			
1. Medical appointment	63.7%	50.0%	92.9%
2. Work/school	18.2%	21.4%	28.6%
3. Shopping (grocery or other)	27.3%	57.1%	57.1%
4. Personal appointments (such as to the beauty shop)	45.5%	42.9%	57.2%
5. Social trips (such as to visit a friend)	27.3%	28.6%	42.9%
6. Dining out	9.1%	21.4%	28.6%
7. Other (please list reason)	45.5%	28.6%	21.4%
Nursing home			1
Church	1	1	1
Library		1	
Volunteer			1
Heartland Adult Day Center	2	2	
Heartland Senior Center/ 60 Forward		1	
Misc. Events	2		
12. Please indicate your race.			
1. White	90.9%	85.7%	76.9%
2. African American	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%
3. Asian	9.1%	14.3%	23.1%
4. Native American or Pacific Islander	9.1%	0.0%	7.7%
5. American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6. Hispanic	9.1%	7.1%	0.0%
7. Does not wish to answer	9.1%	7.1%	7.7%
8. Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Dial-A-Ride Survey Comparison

Question/Response	2026	2025	2024
13. Please provide us with any comments/suggestions you have for improving Dial-A-Ride service.			
HIRTA should not claim to operate with Story County when they really only operate within Ames. The only time they go outside Ames is if they can pull one of their buses off an Ames route long enough to drive to where in the county you're needing to go. Of course they'd have to be able to do that to get you there and again to get you back. Why don't they have a bus dedicated for county trips to solve this problem?			
Jeff started riding in January of 2026. We've had a great experience with HIRTA. He rides weekly to adult daycare.			
I am so thankful for this service in Ames. It has really been a blessing for my family and friends.			

April 16, 2026
State Grant and Public Transit Infrastructure Grant
(PTIG) Applications
CyRide Resource: Shari Atwood

BACKGROUND:

CyRide annually submits grant applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) to support operating and capital needs for the transit system. The following summarizes the proposed applications to be submitted by May 1, 2026, for funding during the FY 2027 budget year, subject to Transit Board approval.

OPERATING	Funding Type	State / Federal	Total	State / Federal	Local
State Transit Assistance ¹	STA		\$1,103,542	\$1,103,542	\$0
Dial-A-Ride - ADA Service Contract with HIRTA	5310	80%	\$297,636	\$238,109	\$59,527
Assistance for Vehicle Annunciator Annual Service Fees	5310	80%	\$214,049	\$171,239	\$42,810
Subtotal Operating			\$1,615,227	\$1,512,890	\$102,337

CAPITAL	Funding Type	State / Federal	Total	State / Federal	Local
Signage (Infotainment) in Buses	5310	80%	\$92,123	\$73,698	\$18,425
Bus Stop Shelters	5310	80%	\$40,000	\$32,000	\$8,000
19 - 40' Heavy-duty Replacement Diesel Buses	5339	85%	\$20,113,400	\$17,096,390	\$3,017,010
Roof/HVAC Replacement with Fall Protection	PTIG	80%	\$752,626	\$602,101	\$150,525
Subtotal Capital			\$20,998,149	\$17,804,189	\$3,193,960

Total State Grant Application			\$22,613,376	\$19,317,079	\$3,296,297
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State Transit Assistance (STA): The State Transit Assistance (STA) funding of \$1,103,542 is assured funding with no local match requirement. This formula funding is provided by approximately \$19.7 million in vehicle registration fees and is available to all transit systems in the state. CyRide's FY 2027 budget estimated \$1,000,000 in revenues from this source because this figure can fluctuate throughout the year based on car sales.

¹ Estimate based on 5.58274774% of available STA funding for fixed route operations.

Elderly and Disabled Section 5310 Funding: CyRide will receive approximately \$515,046 in Section 5310 federal funding. Approximately half of this amount will support Dial-A-Ride services, with the remainder allocated to bus shelters, infotainment bus signage, and annual service fees to support the vehicle location and automatic voice annunciator systems. The Section 5310 funding is projected to decrease by approximately 2.3% from the previous allocation of \$527,153.

The requests for Section 5310 funding are as follows:

- **Dial-A-Ride:** This funding will support CyRide's ADA service contract with HIRTA for FY 2027 as a traditional project for Section 5310 funding. Expenses for the first six months of FY 2026 for Dial-A-Ride have averaged approximately \$24,768 per month. CyRide recommends requesting \$297,636 (\$238,109 federal) for FY 2027 to accommodate this ridership level for this program.
- **Automatic Vehicle Locator/Automatic Vehicle Annunciator Annual Service Fees:** CyRide will continue to request annual automatic vehicle location, automatic bus stop annunciator, and automatic passenger counter maintenance fees under preventative maintenance for Section 5310 funding. The overall costs for these service fees are currently in the operating budget at \$267,000 per year, which will instead be supported with 80% federal funding through Section 5310. CyRide recommends requesting in FY 2027 \$214,049 total (\$171,239 federal) for preventative maintenance costs, given an estimated \$66,000 carryover from the current grant to offset these costs.
- **Signage Added to Bus Interiors (Infotainment) Displaying Arrival Predictions:** More prominent signage will be added to some buses to provide a visual display of approaching stops, combined with the existing automatic voice annunciators. This will help new passengers and improve accessibility and ease of use. The equipment will also enable periodic advertising on equipped buses. CyRide recommends an infotainment budget of \$92,123 (\$73,698 federal) in FY 2027 to equip approximately 12 more buses, and this project is currently programmed in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).
- **Bus Stop Amenities (Concrete & Shelters):** CyRide typically federally funds two shelters annually. For FY 2027, CyRide recommends reallocating a portion of the federal funding toward vehicle location/annunciator preventative maintenance costs and funding a second shelter locally. This approach allows for more efficient project delivery and the use of available funding.

One federally funded shelter will be added in FY 2027 at Lincoln Way and Lynn eastbound. The locally funded second shelter will be placed at Lincoln Way and Beach eastbound. Bus stop improvements are considered a non-traditional project that enhances accessibility to the fixed-route system and aligns with CyRide's Bus Stop and Shelter Design plan. The CIP has \$80,000 programmed for bus shelter improvements for FY 2027. This application will request \$40,000 (\$32,000 federal) for the replacement of the shelter at Lincoln Way/Lynn.

Section 5339 or Public Transit Management System (PTMS)/CRP Funding: Section 5339 funding for nineteen 40' heavy-duty buses is only partially included in the CIP, as funding received from the State of Iowa for bus replacements is competitively awarded. In May 2025, the Transit Board approved submitting these nineteen buses as part of the State's discretionary grant application. The Iowa DOT has since received a federal Section 5339 discretionary award to support bus replacements statewide.

At the time of this application, CyRide has not received final confirmation from the Iowa DOT regarding the number of vehicles that will be funded through that award. As a result, CyRide is including these vehicles in the FY 2027 State Grant application to remain eligible for funding.

CyRide currently has 31 buses beyond their useful life of 12 years in need of replacement. The Transit Board previously approved a local match commitment associated with this application. Prior to any buses being purchased, an item would be brought to the Transit Board for consideration detailing the number of vehicles and how the previously approved local match would be funded.

Public Transit Infrastructure Grants (PTIG) Funding: Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) projects are competitively selected at the state level. CyRide will be notified of selection decisions during FY 2027 and, if selected, work would begin by the fall of 2027. Typically, public transit receives approximately \$1.5 million for PTIG projects statewide, and each transit agency may also receive funding from the Rural Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), which is primarily funded by gaming revenues.

CyRide is requesting PTIG funding to reroof its administration building, originally built in 2008, and the bus storage garage lanes 1 & 2, originally built in 2005, and to replace aging HVAC equipment serving those lanes. The roof and equipment in these areas are 18 and 21 years old, respectively, and have exceeded their useful life of 15 years. Additionally, CyRide plans to add fall protection skylight safety screens to all 38 roof skylights and install non-penetrating perimeter fall protection railing on the south facility wall. This project will enhance employee safety during roof maintenance.

PTIG funding is currently included in CyRide's FY 2028 CIP at \$750,000 total (\$600,000 federal; \$150,000 local) for a Fueling System Upgrade project. However, CyRide believes the Roof/HVAC Replacement with Fall Protection project better aligns with the PTIG application's safety-focused elements.

A public hearing was held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. to discuss this State Grant and PTIG applications with the community. Any comments from the public at that meeting or submitted in writing by the deadline will be provided to the Transit Board at their April 16, 2026, meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the FY 2027 State Grant and Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) applications as presented.
2. Modify the FY 2027 State Grant and PTIG applications based on Transit Board priorities.
3. Reject the grant application and do not submit a state funding request for FY 2027.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transit Director recommends approval of Alternative #1, to submit operating and capital grant applications to the Iowa DOT. These applications support transit services in the Ames community and reduce the overall local commitment to identified projects.



April 16, 2026
Monthly Report
CyRide Resource: Barbara Neal

1. Fuel Contract

CyRide has a fuel purchase contract based on the market rate of fuels, plus a mark-up/deduction, which has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient way to purchase the quantities of fuel required to operate CyRide's vehicles. The current fuel contract is with Petroleum Traders Corporation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and will expire on June 30, 2026. A new Invitation to Bid will be issued to re-bid the fuel contract before the current contract expires.

2. Video Surveillance System

CyRide released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a contract to replace mobile video security systems as they reach the end of their useful life. The RFP was released on March 16, 2026, and bids were due on April 13, 2026. Staff will review the submitted proposals and bring a recommendation for award to the May 2026 Transit Board meeting.

3. Facility Janitorial Services Contract

CyRide currently has a contract with Nationwide Office Care for janitorial services to keep the facility clean and in good condition. The current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2026. CyRide will be releasing a Request for Proposal to establish a new annual contract with up to four 12-month renewal periods. A new contract will be brought to the Transit Board for consideration prior to the end of the current contract.