

ITEM # MPO 1
DATE: 03-25-08

**AMES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (AAMPO)
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AAMPO FY 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND FY 2008
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

BACKGROUND:

Last year, the AAMPO approved the 2008 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) and 2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of which the City of Ames and CyRide both incorporate projects into each of these planning documents. However, there are some projects that are unforeseen at the time of TIP/TPWP submittal or require additional public involvement prior to placing projects within these documents. With approval from Ames' Transit Agency Board of Trustees, CyRide staff is now ready to begin work or submit grant applications for the following planning and capital projects and is thereby requesting these projects be amended within the 2008 TIP and TPWP.

The following are requests to amend two planning projects and one capital project into the 2008 TIP and both planning projects into the 2008 TPWP.

Planning

1. Facilities Study – CyRide will be updating the Ames Facilities Master Plan completed in 2001 to determine the physical space requirements for the efficient operation of CyRide for the next 15 years. With a larger bus fleet, anticipated growth and a possible change in vehicle size coupled with a limited facility site, it would be fiscally responsible to conduct a study of the total physical space requirement for the future to ensure CyRide continues to meet the needs of the community. By approving this project, the Ames MPO would agree to allocate \$10,000 of STP dollars to this project with the remaining \$34,843 coming from CyRide's local budget for a total of \$44,843. To commence work, this project needs to be incorporated into the TIP and TPWP for 2008.

The budget proposed for this project is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Federal (STP)</u>	<u>Local</u>
Facilities Master Plan Update	\$44,843	\$10,000	\$33,843

2. Ames Alternatives Analysis – An Alternatives Analysis Study will be conducted of the Iowa State Center to Iowa State University campus corridor identified currently as the Orange Route. Ames Transit Agency recently completed a smaller Transit Feasibility Study looking at seven different corridors in the community that had either current transportation/growth issues or future identified growth. The study identified transportation options to resolve corridor problems of which the Orange Route is operating at near maximum capacity. It was determined through the Transit Feasibility Study that the Orange Route may qualify for Small New Starts funding to establish a Bus Rapid Transit corridor. The Alternatives Analysis study will confirm the locally

preferred alternative as recommended by the previous study. It will analyze the specific route options in more depth regarding transit-only corridors, provide detailed information on bus stop upgrades, and analyze the route speed increases realized with extended-green technology. This study will also analyze the financial capacity/needs of the Ames community to undertake a project of this nature.

This planning project was discussed among the Ames community this fall along with several other recommendations from the Transit Feasibility Study. CyRide staff conducted three public hearings as well as numerous meetings with organizations including Ames MPO, Ames Chamber of Commerce, Historical District NA, Government of the Student Body, and ISU's Transit Advisory Council to obtain public opinion of the recommendations. The Orange Route corridor change resulted in a great deal of positive feedback and questions from the community. Based on this input, in December 2007, CyRide's board decided that an additional study should be undertaken along this corridor and requested staff to apply for grant funding that was approved through a Congressional earmark. CyRide was one of 21 transit organizations to be approved for this earmark funding. To apply for this federal grant funding, this project must be incorporated into the TIP and TPWP for 2008.

The budget proposed for this project is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Federal Earmark</u>	<u>Local</u>
Ames Alternatives Analysis Study	\$200,000	\$160,000	\$40,000

New Freedom

3. Heavy Duty Bus Expansion – In response to the proposed new development along E. 13th Street, CyRide staff proposes to request Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding in May 2008 to add a new route to the E. 13th Street/Lincoln Way/Dayton Avenue area. This operating project was approved within the 2008 TIP and is included within the 2008 Passenger Transportation Development Plan. However, two additional buses would be required to perform this service expansion. JARC funds will be maximized with the application for operating funds that CyRide intends to request in May 2008. Therefore, New Freedom funding could provide additional funds for this required need. This project was identified in the FY 2009 Ames PTDP's investment program and approved by the PTDP Committee. To apply for this federal grant funding in May 2008, this project needs to be incorporated into the 2008 TIP.

The budget proposed for this project is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Local</u>
Bus Purchase	\$354,000	\$100,000	\$254,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve amendments of all **three** projects into the 2008 TIP and **two** planning projects into the 2008 TPWP in order for CyRide to begin work and submit grant applications to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) this fiscal year.
2. Approve the amendments into the 2008 TIP and 2008 TPWP with modifications from the AAMPO Policy committee.
3. Do not approve the amendments, thereby not allowing projects to commence or submittal of grant applications to FTA or IDOT for approval of funding.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Administrator that the AAMPO Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving amendments of three projects to the 2008 TIP and two projects to the 2008 TPWP allowing grants to be submitted and work to commence on behalf of CyRide.