

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CYRIDE VEHICLE TRACKING SOFTWARE

BACKGROUND:

In February 2011, the Transit Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a vehicle tracking system that would provide CyRide customers with real-time, bus-stop level arrival information to increase CyRide’s convenience for its riding public. Specifically, customers would be able to identify a bus stop location where they would be boarding and use a computer, smartphone or telephone to receive the next two times their bus would be arriving at that stop. This technology would alleviate waiting in inclement weather at a bus stop for a bus.

Funding for this project was to be secured from CyRide’s GSB Trust Fund provided by student fee dollars and; therefore, could be purchased outside of the normal purchasing methods, if approved by a purchasing waiver from the Ames City Council. At the City Council meeting on March 22, 2011, it was decided that a formal bid process was preferred. Over the summer and early fall, CyRide staff developed a Request for Proposal that was released in December 2011. The bid deadline was extended at the request of several bidders; therefore, proposals were due on January 27, 2012.

Six proposals were received, and following a formal evaluation process from a team of individuals, three finalists were selected to demonstrate their product to a group of CyRide, City of Ames Information Technology, and Government of the Student Body representatives. The evaluation results and three-year cost of the finalists’ products were as follows:

		MVTT	NextBus	Syncromatics
Technical Requirements	10%	2.8	4.4	3.2
Wireless	10%	4.7	3.7	2.5
Training	5%	4.3	4.2	4.0
Schedule	10%	4.2	4.3	2.8
Personnel	10%	3.7	3.8	3.8
Other	10%	3.3	3.7	3.2
Price	45%	4.39	5.00	3.09

4.06	4.44	3.13
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Initial Cost (BAFO)	\$ 161,885	\$ 143,400	\$ 417,740
3 Year Cost	\$ 461,669	\$ 405,520	\$ 655,145

The NextBus proposal and product were determined by the evaluation team to be the best “fit” for CyRide and the Ames community based on its lowest price and for its technical capabilities. Additionally, after reviewing the three products, it was the team’s consensus that the NextBus product also had the strongest passenger information component of the three vendor products.

The attached budget reflects a cost breakdown associated with the vehicle tracking system’s purchase, deployment and three-year cost.

This three year budget is slightly higher than NextBus’ proposal as it includes modifications to the bid to add spare units for quick “switching out” of non-working units, modifications to the number of vehicles to accurately reflect CyRide’s current fleet and additional cost for four signs as well as their installation/electrification at the Kildee, Bessey, Student Services and Friley bus stops where a large number of customers transfer between buses, or board/alight buses.

The 2011 discussions with the Government of the Student Body indicated a desire to fund this technology, and three years of its annual cost from their CyRide GSB Trust Fund balance. Currently this fund has a positive balance of approximately \$1.5 million. After the three-year period, discussions between the Transit Board of Trustees and the Government of the Student Body would determine if the Trust Fund or their fees would continue to provide funding for this system or whether CyRide’s operating budget, divided between the three local funding partners, would assume responsibility for the annual expense of this technology.

The Transit Director met with the GSB Senate on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 to discuss the project and its funding with student representatives and to determine their continued desire for the project. The GSB Senate unanimously approved the purchase and funding of this project for three years.

The Transit Board of Trustees unanimously approved an award of contract to NextBus during its April 19, 2012, meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve award to NextBus for vehicle tracking software and three years annual expenses in an amount not-to-exceed of \$447,125.
2. Reject all bids and direct staff to rebid a vehicle tracking software package.
3. Do not purchase a transit scheduling software package.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The ability for customers to secure real-time bus arrival information has been the most requested enhancement to CyRide's service for the past six years. However, the cost to purchase and install a technology system of this type has been outside CyRide's ability to financially consider. However, with the Government of the Student Body's healthy trust fund balance and the members' desire to spend a portion of this balance on a vehicle tracking system, CyRide's ability to feasibly fund this technology has become possible.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby awarding a contract to NextBus to provide the benefits of a vehicle tracking system for not only students at Iowa State University, but the entire community.

CyRide NextBus Project Cost

One-Time Expense

Budget Item	Final Budget
Base System – Large Buses	\$109,135
Base System – Small Buses	\$8,365
Shipping – GPS Base/Spare Units	\$4,250
Spare Units (5)	\$7,475
4 Signs – Eqt./Shipping Cost	\$22,000
Route Configuration	\$34,000
Telephone Info. System	\$5,000
Test Messaging System	\$5,000
Mobile Computers	\$1,300
XML Data Feed	\$5,000
Project Management	\$15,000
Travel and Expenses	\$5,000
Training On Site	\$500
Less Discount	\$49,500
Total Bid One-Time Cost	\$172,525
Sign Installation/Electrification - ISU	\$12,000
Total One-Time Cost	\$184,525

Annual Expenses

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Cell Service Base System	\$28,800	\$28,800	\$28,800
Cell Service - Signs	\$1,440	\$1,440	\$1,440
Software Base System	\$39,420	\$39,420	\$39,420
Software Support Vehicles	\$1,680	\$1,680	\$1,680
Software - Signs	\$2,160	\$2,160	\$2,160
Telephone Info. System	\$4,380	\$4,380	\$4,380
Test Messaging System	\$4,380	\$4,380	\$4,380
Base System Warranty (after Year 1)	NA	\$11,750	\$11,750
Signs Warranty (after Year 1)	NA	\$2,160	\$2,160
Total Annual	\$82,260	\$96,170	\$96,170

Total Three-Year Cost

Expense	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
One Time	\$184,525	\$0	\$0	\$184,525
Annual	\$82,260	\$96,170	\$96,170	\$274,600
Total	\$266,785	\$96,170	\$96,170	\$459,125