

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

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE AMES AREA MPO 2015 – 2019 FINAL
PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

BACKGROUND:

The Federal government requires a locally-coordinated planning process for transportation issues between health/human service agencies and transportation providers. States and metropolitan planning organizations, in turn, have been charged to carry out this process and therefore are required to develop a Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). This plan provides needs-based justification for identifying passenger transportation priorities and strategies.

CyRide staff works on the AAMPO's behalf for this coordination with the Story County Human Service Council and Transportation Collaboration groups. The PTP must be updated, at a minimum, every five years. The Ames Area MPO last approved their PTP in March 2014 and will be required to submit their next full PTP to the Iowa DOT in 2019. During the interim, there must be documentation of at least two annual coordination meetings to be submitted to the IDOT by July 31st of each year; AAMPO exceeds this requirement.

PTP AMENDMENT INFORMATION:

In October 2017, **HIRTA announced their plans to implement a customer service portal** where customers will be able to book their trips online, change their account status (address, phone number, etc.), check on their trip status, and pay for trips online. HIRTA is implementing this for their passengers throughout their service area including Story County and Ames. Federal planning funds (Section 5310) support projects that improve mobility for seniors and individuals, and the portal will be an outstanding technological improvement benefiting ADA Paratransit (Dial-A-Ride) customers.

There is 5310 funding available within the existing annual Dial-A-Ride Service budget due to unspent funds from previous fiscal years, which can be used to support this one-time implementation of the HIRTA portal. Funding is anticipated to be drawn over a six-month period under the existing service agreement contract. Therefore, **no additional 5310 funding is needed; the only action needed is to specifically identify the project within the plan.** No other changes are being proposed to the PTP plan.

The text amendment to the Passenger Transportation Plan will include a public comment period starting on December 12, 2017. The amended plan, along with any

suggested modifications from the public and Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), will come back before the TPC at their January 9, 2018, meeting for formal approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Review the amendment to the Ames Area MPO 2015 – 2019 Final Passenger Transportation Plan and set January 9, 2018, as the date for the public hearing.
2. Review and modify the amendment to the Ames Area MPO 2015 – 2019 Final Passenger Transportation Plan and set January 9, 2018, as the date for the public hearing.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The amendment to the Ames Area MPO 2015 – 2019 Final Passenger Transportation Plan has been developed in coordination as prescribed by the Passenger Transportation Plan. No additional funding will be required. **The action being requested on December 12, 2017 is to set the date of hearing for the proposed amendment.**

Therefore, the Administrator recommends that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.