

**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 human/health service agencies and transportation providers. States and metropolitan planning organizations in turn, have been charged to carry out this process and as a result are required to develop a Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). This plan provides needs-based justification for identifying passenger transportation priorities and/or strategies.

CyRide staff works on the AAMPO's behalf for this coordination with the Story County Human Service Council and the 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 coordination meetings to be submitted to the IDOT annually by July 31st of which the Ames Area MPO exceeds this requirement.

PTP AMENDMENT INFORMATION:

In October 2017, **HIRTA announced their plan to implement a customer service portal** where customers will be able to book their own trips online, change their account status (address, phone number, etc.), check on their trip status, pay for trips online, etc. HIRTA is implementing this for their passengers throughout their service area including Story County and the Ames area. Section 5310 federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration supports projects that improve mobility for seniors and individuals with riding in Ames 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 project implementation of the HIRTA portal. Funding is anticipated to be drawn over a six-month period under the service agreement contract. Therefore, **no additional funding other than from 5310 is needed. The only action needed is to specifically identify the project within this plan.** No other changes are being proposed to the PTP plan.

A comment period was opened on December 12, 2017. As of Friday, January 5, 2018, staff has not received any comments regarding the proposed amendment.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the amendment to the Ames Area MPO 2015 – 2019 Final Passenger Transportation Plan to utilize the remaining Section 5310 funding for the HIRTA customer service portal.
2. Approve the amendment to the Ames Area MPO 2015 – 2019 Final Passenger Transportation Plan to utilize the remaining Section 5310 funding for the HIRTA customer service portal, with modifications.

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 federal requirements.

Therefore, it is recommended by the Administrator that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.