

ITEM #: MPO 1  
DATE: 03-28-23  
DEPT: MPO

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:      AMENDMENT TO FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**BACKGROUND:**

To receive federal funds for regional transportation projects, it is necessary for them to be included in the Ames Area MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Ames Area MPO's current TIP contains projects programmed for federal fiscal years 2023 through 2026 and was approved on July 12, 2022. The TIP may be amended in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Ames Area MPO's TIP and Public Participation Plan. This process is outlined below:

**Steps for TIP Amendment (as outlined in the Public Participation Plan)**

1. Request for amendment(s) by member agency or MPO staff
2. Recommendation by the Transportation Technical Committee
3. Initial review by Transportation Policy Committee; Setting of public hearing date
4. Minimum 15-day public comment period
5. Public hearing and final approval by Transportation Policy Committee

**CyRide has requested that three bus purchases (Projects 10246, 10247, and 10248) be rolled over from previous TIPs into FFY 2023 with increased federal funding. Because the amount of federal aid increase to these projects exceeds 30%, a TIP amendment is required to roll-over and modify these projects. The three bus purchases are described below:**

Supply chain shortages have occurred within the bus manufacturing industry particularly for bus chassis as well as technological make-ready items (electronic signage, cameras, etc). CyRide's new price for the LD low-floor 176" wheelbase bus with CyRide's options will be between \$198,243 (\$168,507 federal; non-urbanized minibus for Dial-A-Ride) and \$202,975 (\$172,529 federal; urbanized buses for EASE service).

In the summer 2022, all bus manufacturers listed on the Iowa DOT State Public Transit Bureau contracts, [PTS2021LDB contract](#), notified the Iowa DOT that they couldn't fulfill the base pricing previously bid. CyRide purchases many buses off of other state contracts as allowed by the Federal Transit Administration to lower administrative costs and time. Specifically, the previous LD Low-Floor 176" wheelbase base bid pricing offered by Hogle Bus Company of \$141,897 was renegotiated up to \$153,597. In addition, a 2023 bus chassis upgrade (2022 chassis no longer available) added another \$7,470 as well as \$8,000 to \$13,000 in additional "make ready" costs

to make the bus look like a CyRide bus. Overall, the increase is approximately 38% for projects 10246 & 10247. Project 10248 indicates a 106.5% increase but was initially identified as a high floor LD Bus (176" wheelbase bus) but CyRide wishes to purchase a low-floor LD 176" wheelbase bus for its Dial-A-Ride service to better serve its ADA passengers.

In January 2023, the Iowa DOT notified CyRide it had identified additional federal 5339 funding to add to existing transit contracts across the Iowa. Otherwise, many transit agencies wouldn't be able to afford their bus purchases with only partial funding available in contracts. This federal funding first needs to be identified in an approved Statewide TIP before it can be requested within a grant to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on behalf of the Iowa DOT for CyRide.

The "low-floor" light duty buses are new to CyRide's fleet as historically CyRide has purchased high-floor minibuses with steps and a powered wheelchair lift. A low-floor minibus allows stepless boarding for all passengers and provides a quicker and more dependable wheelchair loading experience for ADA passengers by using a manual deployable ramp.

**Both the Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Policy Committee have previously reviewed this amendment. Staff opened a public comment period regarding this amendment from January 25 to February 28, 2023, and did not receive any comments.** This amendment now goes before the Transportation Policy Committee again for public hearing and final approval.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the amendment to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program
2. Approve the amendment to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, with Transportation Policy Committee modifications.

**MPO ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approval of this amendment to the TIP will allow CyRide to access the Iowa DOT's additional funding made available for these bus purchases. Without approval, CyRide could not afford these bus purchases due to a substantial increase in costs from supply chain shortages.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the MPO Administrator that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.